# 中華小廚師

壹

正式授權中文版

小川悅司

TONG LI COMICS

# CHUUKA ICHIBAN

cooking master boy

1

OGAWA ETSUSHI

SAVING JU XIA LOU ——— 3
HEADING FOR THE CAPITAL OF DELICACIES 83
THE WISE ONE ——— 123
THE PASSION OF COOKING ——— 147
SANCHE'S SECRET ——— 167

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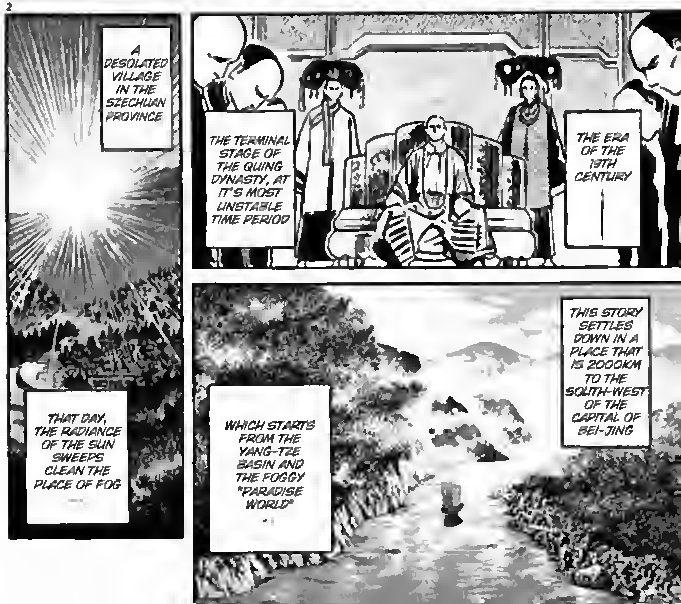
CHAPTER 1: SAVING JU XIA LOU

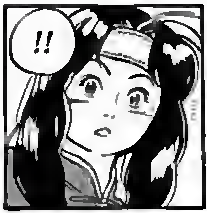
'WHEN YOU ARE TO BE WEDDED, MARRY A JAPANESE WIFE; WHEN LIVING IN A HOUSE, CHOOSE A WESTERN STYLED HOUSE; WHEN YOU ARE EATING, EAT CHINESE FOOD! THIS IS THE UTMOST ■LISS OF LIFE!'
I'M NOT SURE IF ANYONE HAS HEARD OF THIS SAYING
THESE USUAL DISHES ARE STILL LOVED BY ALL!
DUMPLINGS, SIU MAI, SPRINGROLLS ...
BUT COMBINES WITH DISHES ALL AROUND THE WORLD WITH ONE SNAP IT BECOMES THE MOST SIMPLE AND LOVED DISH IN THE WORLD
CHINESE FOOD NOT ONLY SPREAD TO JAPAN, THE UNITED STATES,
THE CHINA STREET OF YOKOHAMA AND OF KOBE
AND WHERE IS THE HOMETOWN OF THE MOST MOUTH-WATERING DELICACIES? OF COURSE
CHINA!
CHINATOWN OF SAN FRANCISCO ..

MAP OF THE 4 MAIN TYPES OF CHINESE CUISINE
BEI-JING
BEI-JING CUISINE
ZECHUAN CUISINE
CAPITAL
SHANG-HAI
SHANG-HAI CUISINE
GUANG-ZHOU CUISINE
GUANG-ZHOU
COUNTLESS COOKS, STRONG AS STEEL, WORK EXTREMELY HARD, AND COMPETE AGAINST EACH OTHER AND THIS STORY HAPPENS IN THE BACKGROUND OF THIS PERIOD ...
CHINESE CUISINE HAS A LONG-LASTING HISTORY THAT DATES BACK 4000 YEARS!

2


A DESOLATED VILLAGE IN THE SZECHUAN PROVINCE
THE TERMINAL STAGE OF THE QUING DYNASTY, AT IT'S MOST UNSTABLE TIME PERIOD
THE ERA OF THE 19TH CENTURY
THAT DAY, THE RADIANCE OF THE SUN SWEEPS CLEAN THE PLACE OF FOG
WHICH STARTS FROM THE YANG-TZE BASIN AND THE FOGGY "PARADISE WORLD"
THIS STORY SETTLES DOWN IN A PLACE THAT IS 200KM TO THE SOUTH-WEST OF THE CAPITAL OF BEI-JING

AND BRINGS A BRAND NEW DAY TO A BOY FULL OF PASSION
MAO
Chi Chi Chi Chi Chi
MAO
!?
御林軍指定菜館
菊
EH? WHERE DID THAT KID GO?
!?
WHAT'S WITH THIS? WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON?


!!

BOY...
HE SURE MADE A BIG MESS!
IT'S ONLY BEEN ONE NIGHT...

ZZZZZ...

4

.....!?
PEEP PEEP

SFX. GABAA
!?
ガラガラ

IT'S MORNING ALREADY!
BIONG BIONG
UH...
HEY, HEY, HEY!
SFX. BIKUU

.....

SFX. GARAN

SIS!
WHERE IS THAT GUY?
DID HE COME YET?

HEY! DID YOU OVERSLEEP OR SOMETHING?
THAT MAN IS COMING TODAY AT NOON!

YOU'D BETTER HURRY AND GET YOUR HEAD ON TRACK!
TODAY IS AN IMPORTANT DATE!
YOU'D BETTER DO A GOOD JOB PREPARING YOURSELF!
ぎゅ～～～～っ

SFX: GYUU

BASTARD! I DON'T CARE WHO ON EARTH YOU ARE!
JUST KEEP IT COMING YOU MORON!
おおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおおo
SFX: OOOOOO
BASTARD! I DON'T CARE WHO ON EARTH YOU ARE!
JUST KEEP IT COMING YOU MORON!
LET MAO, MYSELF SEE HOW MUCH YOU GOT!

ENTITLED 'JU XIA LOU'
HERE IS A RESTAURANT IN THE CAPITAL OF THE SZECHUAN PROVINCE,
下物

IN THIS RESTAURANT,
ALL THE COOKING MASTERS FROM EACH GENERATION ARE THE MOST FAMOUS COOKS OF SZECHUAN PROVINCE!
HOWEVER, THERE IS AN UNWRITTEN RULE ...
御林軍鎮定旅館
聚下樓

LEFT SIGN: JU XIA LOU RIGHT SIGN: THE CHOSEN RESTAURANT OF LIN'S MILITARY

6

TWENTY YEARS AGO, WHEN DAD WAS TO OBEY AND BE IN CHARGE OF 'JU XIA LOU',
HE DEFEATED HIS OPPONENT IN THE "BATTLE OF CUISINE" AND WAS GIVEN THE RIGHT TO BECOME THE "MASTER COOK"
SADLY, ELEVEN YEARS AGO, DAD PASSED AWAY,
MOM THEN SUCCEEDED IN KEEPING THE RESTAURANT AFTER DEFEATING THE NEW MASTER COOK-IN-WAITING ...
MOM, SHE ...
ガブ ガブ
SFX: GABU GABU

THE DISHES THAT MOM MADE WITH HER HEART,
HAVE FURTHER CHANGED THE HISTORY OF THE RESTAURANT ...
SHE IS SAID TO BE THE MASTER OF ALL THE COOKS BEFORE HER.
WAS KNOWN AS THE SZECHUAN GODDESS'!
7
THE BATTLE OF THE ENTRUSTMENT OF THIS RESTAURANT WITH THE NEW MASTER COOK-IN-WAITING
AND THIS DAY HAS FINALLY ARRIVED ...
HOWEVER, MOM ...
MAD... THIS 'BATTLE OF CUISINE'...
YOU REQUESTED IT YOURSELF ...
PASSED AWAY A MONTH AGO ...
IF YOU SHOULD LOSE ...
YOU MUST BE ...
PREPARED FOR THE OUTCOME ...
WE WILL HAVE TO LEAVE HERE!
SFX. GATAA

I WILL TRASH HIM FOR SURE!
.....
!!
SFX: NUUU
FURTHERMORE MY OPPONENT IS HIM!
I WILL DEFINITELY WIN!
SFX: HA--
SFX: NUUUU
DRINK THIS AND DO YOUR BEST!
THIS IS THE SOUP MOM USUALLY MAKES FOR US!
HERE! I'M DONE STEWING!
SFX: PASHA PASHA
EH!?
!!
.....
SLUUURP
MOM ...

HONEYED GRASS
ORANGE PEEL
THE FRUIT OF THE HAI-SHAN HERB
HAI-SHAN HERB
SZECHUAN PEPPERS
.....
SIS!
.....!!
ハァ
ハァ

RE... REALLY ...?
WHAT ...?
SWEET-FRAGRANCED PEPPER
THE FIVE HERBAL SPICES YOU USED IN THIS SOUP IS DIFFERENT FROM MOM!
HAHAHA! I CAN'T BE WRONG!
MOM'S FLAVOUR... I STILL REMEMBER IT CLEARLY!
IT'S MISSING 'CINNAMON SPICE' AND 'SWEET-FRAGRANCED PEPPER'
SFX: KAA
ABOVE RIGHT: CINNAMON
I AM JUST A CHEF WITH AN INSENSITIVE TONGUE...
MAYBE WE HAVE A CHANCE IN THIS MATCH AFTERALL...
SFX: JABA JABA
WOW... NOT BAD MAO!
I KNOW...
MOM ...
WILL BE BLURRED, BUT ...
IF I LOSE, THE FUTURE OF SIS AND I,

I STILL CAN'T STAND THE FACT THAT ...
MOM'S FLAVOUR ...
IS TO DISAPPEAR FROM THIS WORLD ...!
AND THE NEW CHOSEN MASTER COOK IS HIM!
MOM ...
SFX: GULI
!!
SFX: KAA
SFX: BAA
SFX: JYAU
HEH... THIS PLACE HASN'T CHANGED A BIT!
IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS ALREADY ...
TIME DOES PASS BY SO QUICKLY ...
AH...
!!!
!!!
SFX: DOKUN DOKUN DOKUN DOKUN

SHOU..
SHOUAN!
BRATS ...!
YOU SEEM TO BE FULL OF ENERGY!

THAT OLD WOMAN ...
I HEARD THAT SHE DIED...
WHO DO YOU THINK ...!
.....!!
.....!!!
WHO DO YOU THINK MOM...

NO! MAO!
DIDN'T WE AGREE UPON THE FACT THAT WE WILL BATTLE ONLY BY CUISINE?
DIED FOR! SAY IT!
!?
ガ
!!!
WARMS UP SO QUICKLY
HUH KID, YOU ARE STILL LIKE A STEEL POT
YES! JUST LIKE THAT! LEAN THE JOINT OF YOUR MIDDLE FINGER IN YOUR LEFT HAND AGAINST THE BUTCHER'S KNIFE,
CUTTING STRAIGHT IS THE MOST BASIC CONCEPT OF KNIFE-HANDLING SKILL!
SPENT AN ENDLESS AMOUNT OF TIME AND HEART IN ORDER TO TRAIN YOU TO BE AN INDEPENDENT COOK...
YOU DARE SAY YOU FORGOT ENTIRLY ABOUT THAT?
FOR A USELESS PERSON LIKE YOU, MOM...
EVER SINCE YOU CAME TO 'JU XIA LOU' TO LEARN THE SKILLS OF COOKERY

BECAUSE OF MY DAD'S PASSING AWAY,
.....
DONE!
HEH!
TO TRAIN YOU TO BE A COOK SO THAT YOU COULD HELP OUT IN THE RESTAURANT,
HMM!
YOU CAN SAY THAT SHE FORGOT TO REST NOR EAT JUST TO INSTRUCT YOU WITH EVERYTHING SHE HAD!
THIS IS PASSABLE!
UNDER MOMMY WANG INSTRUCTIONS,
MASTER ...!
WHAT PEOPLE CALL A "SPECIAL GRADE COOK"!
YOU FINALLY BECAME A TOP COOK!
SHUJIN! YOUR SENSE OF AWARENESS IS VERY STRONG!
YOU HAVE A GREAT FUTURE AWAITING YOU!

I DON'T WANT TO WORK UNDER YOU!
SADLY, EVERYTHING ENDS HERE!
THE PASSING CERTIFICATE ...
I'VE WANTED THIS FOR A LONG TIME!
...HOWEVER...
I WILL NEVER FORGET...
WHAT YOU DID ON YOUR 20TH BIRTHDAY...
WE WILL BE NEEDING YOUR HELP FROM NOW ON!
WE NEED YOU HERE, SHOUAN!
WHAT ...?
HMPH! THE REASON IS THAT ...
AT... AT LEAST TELL ME THE REASON ...
SHOUAN!
IF YOU LEAVE, WE...
CAN... CAN'T YOU RECONSIDER?
I TOLD YOU TO LET GO!

I CAN'T LEARN ANYTHING ELSE HERE!
THIS IS THE REASON OLD HAG!
ハァ ハァ
SFX: HAKU
スサッ
SFX: ZUZAZA
MOM! MOM!
SHOU... SHOUAN ...
!!
!!
HMPH!
HA HA HA HA!
YOU NOT ONLY LEFT BY YOUR SELF ...

ALONG WITH YOU!
BUT YOU TOOK THE THREE TOP COOKS ...
MOM! MOM! SOMETHING BAD HAS HAPPENED!
THE SAFE HAS BEEN OPENED!
SHOUAN TOOK ALL THE MONEY WITH HIM!
!!!
ALL THE MONEY GRANTED BY THE EMPEROR HAS DISAPPEARED!
WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
YOU ...
!!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH TAKING A BIT OF MONEY?
WHAH... I WORKED HERE FOR TEN YEARS ...

SHE TRIED HER HARDEST TO KEEP JU XIA LOU!
HOW HARD MOM WORKED!
FROM THEN ON, IN ORDER TO RETURN THE DEBT,
DO YOU KNOW THAT...
I DON'T WANT THIS! MOM!
MOM..
MOM-!
AND SO, IN THAT HEART BREAKING SITUATION
SHE DIED WITH ONLY HATE IN HER HEART!
WHAT IS WRONG?
JU XIA LOU HASN'T OPENED IN A WEEK
IN THE 'BATTLE OF CUISINE' I WILL
DEFINITELY HELP TO AVENGE MY MOM!
HMPH
WHAT A TOUCHING EXCUSE
DO YOU KNOW?
MOM DIED BECAUSE OF YOU!
.....!!

WELL, COMPARED TO A TRAITOR LIKE YOU
I AM A HUNDRED TIMES STRONGER!
YOU ARE A BIRD WITH CROOKED WINGS!
WHAT SKILLS CAN YOU HAVE!?
I WILL SHOW YOU ...
WHAT IT'S LIKE TO FALL BEFORE ME!
MUD

BOTH OF YOU! STOP!
!!
.....
!!

YOUR
YOUR HIGH-NESS...!
HE IS THE GENERAL IN CHARGE OF THE 'IMPERIAL DELICACIES' IN THE IMPERIAL PALACE!
IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT DELICACIES, HE IS THE MAN YOU NEED!
WHAT? GENERAL LEE?
OHO! GENERAL LEE IS FINALLY HERE!
CHIT CHAT
CHIT CHAT
CHIT CHAT

AND WILL END THE MATCH BY DECIDING THE WINNER!
FIRST OF ALL, HE WILL DECIDE UPON A THEME AND WILL LATER JUDGE BY TASTING THE DISHES
THIS "BATTLE OF CUISINE" OF JU XIA LOU,
IS TO BE DETERMINED BY HIM!
!!

DETAINS THE FATE OF MY SISTER AND I...
THE... THE TONGUE OF THIS PERSON...
ゴク!
SFX: GOKU
BUT, MY DUTY...
I UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU PERFECTLY...
SHOUAN! MAO...
IS TO SELECT THE NEW MASTER COOK OF JU XIA LOU
菊下樓

SIGN (LEFT): JU XIA LOU SIGN (RIGHT): THE CHOSEN RESTAURANT OF LIN'S MILITARY

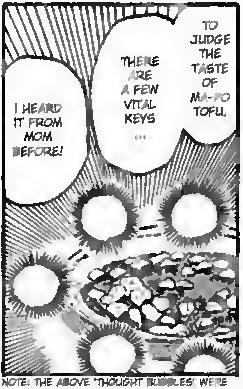
THE DEFEATED WILL FOREVER LOSE THE TITLE OF COCK
THIS IS ALSO THE NEVER-CHANGING 'STEEL RULE' OF JU XIA LOU.
AND IS USED IN EVERY BATTLE OF CUISINE!
NOW...
I SHALL ANNOUNCE THE THEME OF THIS BATTLE
IT'S FINALLY STARTING...! WHAT KIND OF CHALLENGE WILL IT BE...?
I'VE HEARD THAT ALL THE THEMES OF THE BATTLE OF CUISINE ARE BEYOND IMAGINATION...
SHOUAN' MAO...
LISTEN UP NOW
AC, ACTUALLY, THE ONLY DISHES I CAN MAKE...
IS NO MORE THAN THE TOTAL OF MY FINGERS...!

THE THEME OF THIS BATTLE IS——
'MA-PO TOFU'!
WHAT...?
MA...
MA-PO TOFU!?
YES!
I KNOW HOW TO MAKE THAT DISH!
BUT
IT IS NOT JUST ANY ORDINARY MA-PO TOFU!
IT IS THE MAGICAL MA-PO TOFU!
MAGIC. MAGICAL...?

I RODE ON MY HORSE AND HADN'T CLOSED MY EYES FOR THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS
ONCE, I WAS TO DELIVER A MESSAGE FROM BEI-JING TO SZECHUAN,
AT THAT TIME I WAS ONLY AN ORDINARY SOLDIER
THIS REMINDS ME OF WHAT HAPPENED TEN YEARS AGO...
HEY... HURRY AND BRING ME SOME FOOD TO EAT...
AT LAST I COLLAPSED AT THE DOOR OF A TRIVIAL RESTAURANT
WHEN I COMPLETED MY MISSION, I WAS EXHAUSTED!
THAT PLATE OF MA-PO TOFU WAS UNBELIEVABLE
!!
HOW-EVER,
THE SITUATION I WAS IN WAS A CROSS BETWEEN HUNGER AND EXHAUSTION. I WAS UNABLE TO SWALLOW ANYTHING
TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, THE DISH THEY BROUGHT ME WAS
24
SPED UP MY EXHAUSTED HANDS WITHOUT REALIZATION!
THE TASTE, BEYOND WONDER-FUL,
MY FAMISHED STOMACH WAS ENTIRELY AT EASE
IN A SPLIT SECOND I DEVOURED THREE LARGE BOWLS MY ACTIONS THEN CANNOT BE DESCRIBED BY ANY WORDS!
ISN'T THE TASTE A BIT TOO STRONG...!
MA-PO TOFU?

EVEN TODAY, AFTER TEN YEARS
I'M UNABLE TO DESCRIBE THE TASTE OF THE DISH...
IF I MUST USE ...
IF I MUST USE WORDS ...
THEN I CAN ONLY SAY THAT WAS THE ...
ULTIMATE COMBINATION OF TOFU AND MEAT!
SO FAR, NO ONE OR ANY RESTAURANTS ARE ABLE TO RECREATE THIS DISH!
HOWEVER, I REALLY DO WANT TO TASTE IT AGAIN ...
THE DELIGHTFUL TASTE OF THE MAGICAL MA-PO TOFU!
IT SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM, RIGHT? SHOUAN! MAO!
THE BEST WAY TO DETERMINE THE TRUE ABILITY OF A SZECHUAN COOK,
IS THROUGH THE MAKING OF MA-PO TOFU!
...
THE MA-PO TOFU OF SZECHUAN PROVINCE,
IS PERFECTED WHEN ALL THE 'FIVE ELEMENTS' HAVE BEEN REACHED...
HOWEVER, THIS MAGICAL MA-PO TOFU ...

HAS 'SIX ELEMENTS'!
YOU HAVE UNTIL NOON TOMORROW
THE THEME IS MA-PO TOFU WITH SIX ELEMENTS!
SIX ELEMENTS...?
.....!?
?
MAYBE THE ANSWER IS SOMEWHERE WITHIN YOURSELF...!
THINK CAREFULLY
サッ




NOTE: THE ABOVE "THOUGHT BUBBLES" WERE ORIGINALLY BLANK

I HAVE ALREADY SET MY HEART TO CHALLENGE THESE SIX ELEMENTS!
FIRST OF ALL, MINCED MEAT!
THAT'S RIGHT!
SFX: JYUAAAA
SFX: JYAA
ALRIGHT!
THE MINCED MEAT IS PRETTY MUCH DONE!
NOW, ADD IN THE CHOPPED GARLIC, AND BEAN PASTE,
THEN, ADD IN THE CHILLI AND SWEET PASTE!
AND NEXT.....
IS THE HEART OF ALL SZECHUAN DISHES!
SFX: GANN

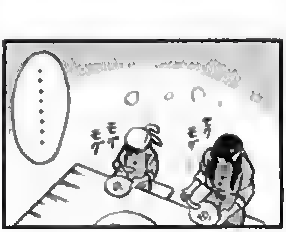
MIXED BEAN SAUCE!
THE ADDITION OF CHILLI CREATES THE FIRST ELEMENT...
spicinessl
SFX: JYUOOO
AFTER MIXING THE COLORS EVENLY...
ADD IN THE SOUP!
NOW, IT'S ABOUT TIME.....

IT FEELS AS IF THE 'MAIN CHARACTER' IS FINALLY ENTERING THE STAGE!
HAH! ADDING IN THE TOFU IS MY FAVOURITE MOMENT,
NOW WE CAN PUT IN THE TOFU!
TO ENHANCE THE TASTE!
NOW WE USE THE WINE, AND MIXING SAUCE,
LEAVING IT TO SIMMER ON LOW HEAT FOR AWHILE!
28
THROW IN THE MINCED GARLIC SPROUT!
AFTER ADDING THE SOY SAUCE
MMM... THIS SMELL IS THE SECOND ELEMENT
fragrance!
THIS IS ALSO MA-PO TOFU'S MOST ATTRACTIVE FEATURE!
WAH THE SMELL OF THE GARLIC SPROUT IS WONDERFUL

THE THREE COLORS, RED WHITE, AND GREEN, MATCH PERFECTLY
AND THIS IS THE THIRD ELEMENT,
color!
SIS! LOOK AT THIS!
THE BEAUTY OF THE DISH FROM THE RED COLOR OF THE CHILLI AND THE WHITE OF THE TOFU,
IS INCREASED BY THE GREEN OF THE GARLIC CHIVE!
BY USING THE POT AS GUIDE, POUR IN THE OIL!
WE ARE ABOUT TO ENTER THE FINAL STAGE!
THE FLOUR, AFTER MIXING WITH THE WATER, BECOMES A ROUX FOR THE TOFU!
10
.....
MA, MAO...
TURN UP THE HEAT TO MAX, AND LET IT BURN!
ゴオオオオ

IT HAS TO BE THIS WAY!
YOU'LL BURN THE POT!
YOU'RE OVERDOING IT!
THE OIL IS FLOATING TO THE TOP!
ALRIGHT! NOW'S THE TIME!
WHAT?
BEFORE MA-PO TOFU CAN BE TAKEN OUT OF THE POT, THE POT MUST BE ALMOST TO THE EXTENT OF BEING BURNT!
THIS WAY WE CAN INTENSIFY THE TASTE AND THE FRAGRANCE TO IT'S HIGHEST DEGREE!
THIS IS THE SKILLFUL FOURTH ELEMENT ....
AND NOW, SPRINKLE ON THE MOUNTAIN CHILLIES!
heal!

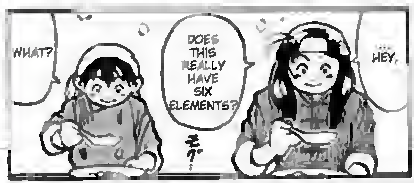
numbness!
FINISHED!
THE MOUNTAIN CHILLIES HAVE THE ABILITY TO PARALYZE ONE'S TONGUE AND THUS, THIS IS


……

IT LOOKS DELICIOUS!
LET'S EAT! LET'S EAT!
WE DID IT! WE DID IT!
YAY!

YEP!
BUT NOW THAT YOU THINK ABOUT IT, THIS STILL TASTES LIKE THE ORDINARY MA-PO TOFU!
……

IT IS REALLY DELICIOUS! MAO!
LIM! EVEN I CAN MAKE SOMETHING LIKE THIS!


WHAT?
DOES THIS REALLY HAVE SIX ELEMENTS?
HEY,

32

AH— THIS—
HURRY MAO!
COUNT!

……
!!

!!
HEAT
AND
NUMBNESS
SPICINESS
FRAGRANCE
COLOR
HEAT, NUMBNESS
SPICINESS, FRAGRANCE, COLOR,
WHAT IS THE SIXTH ELEMENT?
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I COUNT THERE ARE ONLY FIVE ELEMENTS
WAH
33

THE SKY
IS SLOWLY BRIGHTENING...
チチチ...
IS THERE NO OTHER WAY...
MAO...
.....


SPEAKING OF MA-PO TOFU...
THERE WAS A TIME WHEN WE WERE YOUNG,
WE ATE MA-PO TOFU ALMOST EVERY DAY DIDN'T WE?

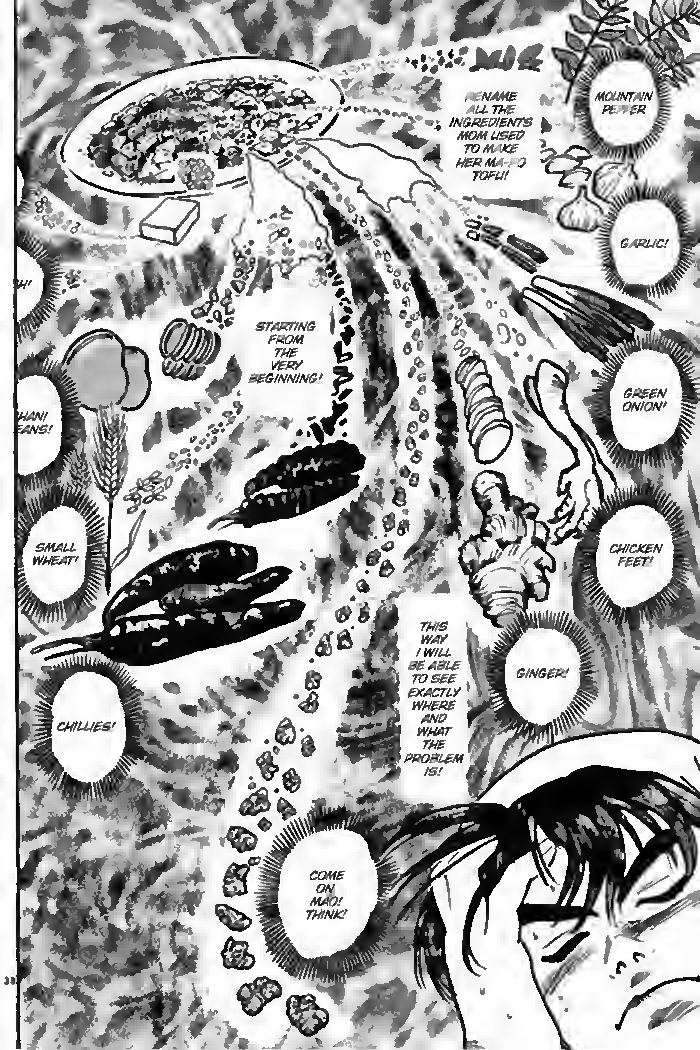

AH! I REMEMBER NOW!
AT THAT TIME MOM KEPT SAYING SOMETHING LIKE, 'SUCCESS' OR 'FAILURE.'
AND THEN SHE WOULD MAKE TONS OF MA-PO TOFU EVERYDAY
BUT IT WAS UNBELIEVABLE
WE ATE SO MUCH EVERYDAY,
BUT WE NEVER GOT TIRED OF IT!

.....!!

SORRY! KARIN! MAO!
TODAY WE HAVE MA-PO TOFU FOR LUNCH AGAIN!
モグ
モグ
モグ
IT'S ALRIGHT! I LOVE EATING MA-PO TOFU!
ME TOO!
OH YEAH THAT TIME
EVERYDAY, I LOCKED FORWARD TO THE ARRIVAL OF LUNCHTIME!
TIME TO DIG IN!
CRISP
LOOSE
CRUNCHY
CRUNCHY
LOOSE
CRUNCHY
LOOSE AND CRUNCHY ...
.....!!

?
HMM...
"THE ULTIMATE COMBINATION OF TOFU AND MEAT"...
COULD IT BE...
.....
!!
AND WHEN YOU BIT IT WITH YOUR TEETH, IT HAD A VERY CRISPY FEEL TO IT!
EVERY SINGLE PIECE OF MINCED MEAT WAS EASY TO SWALLOW,
DO YOU REMEMBER HOW MOM MADE HER MÁ-PO TOFU? THE MINCED MEAT WAS REFRESHING...
HEY... SIS!
SO IT WAS EASY TO DEVOUR
.....
HOW ON EARTH CAN YOU REMEMBER THE TASTE OF SOMETHING YOU ATE SO LONG AGO...?
HOW CAN I POSSIBLY REMEMBER THAT SO CLEARLY..
I'LL TRY IT!
COULD IT BE PORK OR CHICKEN?
THERE WAS SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT THE MINCED BEEF?
BUT THEN, IF IT WAS LIKE THAT...
COULD IT BE THAT IN THE PAST...

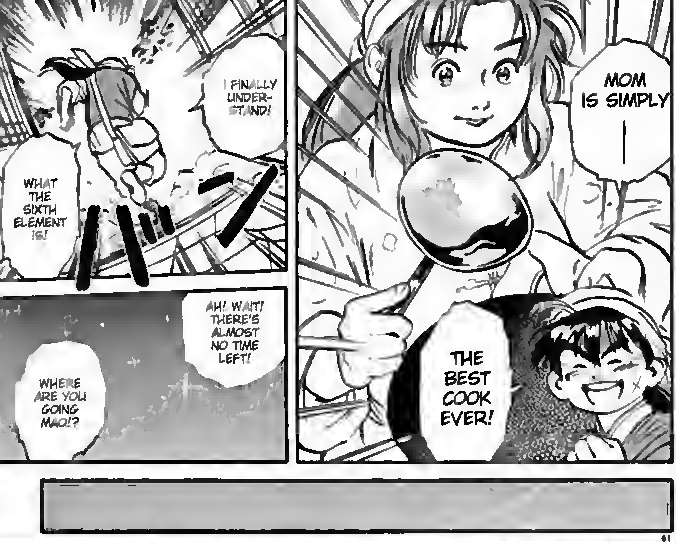
MAYBE .
THE ANSWER IS SOMEWHERE WITHIN YOURSELF . .
NO...
.....
WAIT... GENERAL LEE... HE...
SAID SOMETHING ELSE...
DAMN
!?
ARGH...! WHAT DID GENERAL LEE WANT TO SAY...?
SOMETHING WITHIN MYSELF...?
ALRIGHT, THINK CAREFULLY!
THINK IT OVER AGAIN!
!!
THAT'S IT...!
SOMETHING WITHIN MYSELF,
THE MEMORIES OF MOM'S FLAVOUR!
EH...?
THAT'S RIGHT ...!
32


MIZ
RENAME ALL THE INGREDIENTS MOM USED TO MAKE HER MA-PO TOFU!
MOUNTAIN PEPPER
GARLIC!
STARTING FROM THE VERY BEGINNING!
GREEN ONION!
CHICKEN FEET!
SMALL WHEAT!
GINGER!
THIS WAY I WILL BE ABLE TO SEE EXACTLY WHERE AND WHAT THE PROBLEM IS!
CHILLIES!
COME ON, MAO! THINK!

!?
SIS!
THE YEARLY RECORDS!
WHAT?
39
IT'S PUBLISHED BY THE SZECHUAN PROVINCE
IT HAS THE YEARLY RECORDS OF THE CONDITIONS OF CROPS AND FARM ANIMALS!
EVERY YEAR, SOMEONE WOULD DELIVER ONE TO THE RESTAURANT FROM THE CAPITAL
OH! YOU MEAN
THE 'SZECHUAN PROVINCE YEARLY RECORDS OF ECONOMY'?
THAT'S RIGHT! HURRY AND BRING ALL THE RECORDS FROM THE PAST FEW YEARS!
!!!

...WHAT'S WRONG...?
THAT YEAR...
SO... IT'S TRUE...
SIS!
I UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING NOW...
WHAT..?

THERE WAS ONE YEAR IN WHICH THE INGREDIENT WAS NOT FITTED TO MAKE MA-PO TOFU!
BUT, JUST NOW, I FOUND OUT FROM THE RECORDS
HERE IN THIS RESTAURANT, MA-PO TOFU IS THE MOST POPULAR DISH OF ALL TIME,
THEREFORE MOM NEVER OMITTED THIS DISH FROM THE MENU!
AND THE MA-PO TOFU, OF THAT YEAR,
WAS THE MAGICAL MA-PO TOFU!
SIS!


I FINALLY UNDER-STAND!
WHAT THE SIXTH ELEMENT IS!
バーン
MOM IS SIMPLY
THE BEST COOK EVER!
AH! WAIT! THERE'S ALMOST NO TIME LEFT!!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING MAO!?

61

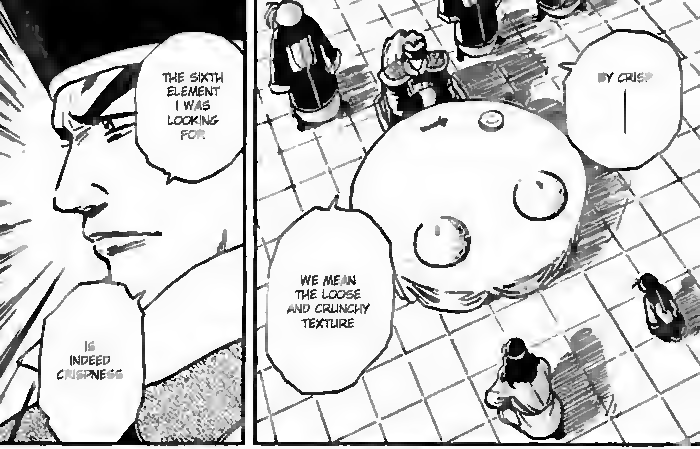
桂下站

THE JUDGING OF JU XIA LOU'S "BATTLE OF CUISINE"

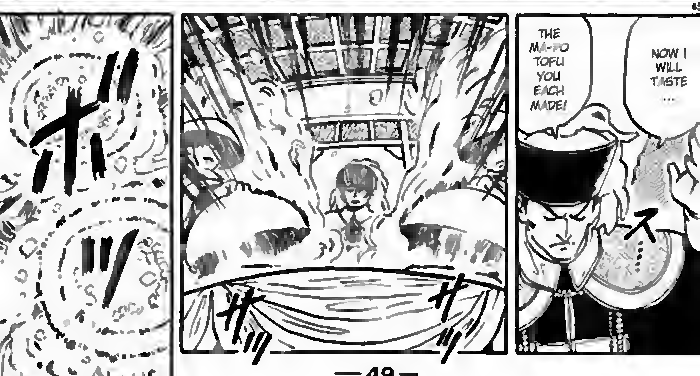
SHOUAN! MAO! ARE YOU BOTH READY?
WILL COMMENCE NOW!
.....
YES....
スス.....
NOW SPEAK THE BOTH OF YOU!
WHAT IS THE SIXTH ELEMENT OF THE MAGICAL MA-PO TOFU?
THE MA-PO TOFU OF SZECHUAN
IS COMPOSED OF THE FIVE ELEMENTS:
'NUMBNESS' 'SPICINESS' 'COLOR' 'FRAGRANCE AND 'HEAT'
.....!!
IT IS
IT IS
グ!!!

'CRISPNESS'!
!!

YOU BOTH DISCOVERED IT...
VERY WELL
SO, SHOJAN DISCOVERED IT TOO...!
WHAT...?
ガーん
WHA. WHAT!?
THAT BRAT...!


THE SIXTH ELEMENT I WAS LOOKING FOR
IS INDEED CRISPNESS
BY CRISP
WE MEAN THE LOOSE AND CRUNCHY TEXTURE

THEREFORE, IF THERE IS A 'SIXTH ELEMENT', THEN OF COURSE IT WOULD BE TEXTURE!
HEHEHE... EXACTLY AS I THOUGHT...
THE WEAKEST POINT OF A DISH OF MA-PO TOFU... IS THE LACK OF TEXTURE.


THE MA-PO TOFU YOU EACH MADE!
NOW I WILL TASTE ...

THE MOST EXCITING PART IS THE GLIMMERING SPICY OIL FLOATING EVERYWHERE!
YEAH ...
MA-PO TOFU IS FOR SURE THE SOURCE OF OUR ENERGY!
PLUS THE AMAZING FRAGRANCE OF THE MOUNTAIN CHILLIES!
AS WELL AS THOSE COLORFUL GREEN GARLIC SPROUTS,
AND THOSE WELL-MIXED IN MINCEMEAT!
LOOK AT THOSE PERFECTLY SHAPED TOFU!
OR THE ONE SHOUAN MADE ON THE LEFT!

7
WHETHER IT IS MAO'S ON THE RIGHT...
BOTH SIDES SEEM DELICIOUS!
OH! OH!

FROM WHAT I AM SEEING SO FAR, YOU BOTH STAND ON THE SAME LEVEL!
JUDGING BY THE FIVE ELEMENTS: NUMBNESS, SPICINESS, COLOR, FRAGRANCE, AND HEAT, YOU BOTH DID VERY WELL!
MMM!
.....

AH! HE IS BEGINNING TO TASTE THE SOUP FROM BOTH SIDES...
WHILE HE'S LOOKING HE MUST BE COMPARING THE SCENT OF BOTH PLATES!
.....

OH IT LOOKS LIKE GENERAL LEE IS GOING TO START HIS EXAMINATION!
YEAH! HE KEEPS STARING AT THE TWO PLATES AS IF CAREFULLY INSPECTING THEM!

THE SIXTH ELEMENT, CRISPNESS!
SO THIS MEANS, THE KEY TO VICTORY IS...
……!!
THAT KID MAO IS SURE GIVING IT ALL HE'S GOT!
STANDING ON THE SAME LEVEL ...?
I WILL START WITH SHOJIAN'S DISH.
TASTING THE MAXIMUM POTENTIAL OF THE DISH!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
BEFORE GENERAL LEE EXAMINED THE TASTE,
HE SCOOPED ONLY THE TOFU ONTO THE PLATE
WHAT IS HE DOING ?
ぷるん
HMM
……!!
HE PROBABLY UNDERSTANDS NOW...
HMPH ... NOT BAD GENERAL LEE...

THA.. THAT IS...
AH!
NOT ONLY THAT...
HM.. THE TEXTURE OF THE TOFU IS VERY WELL-DONE... WONDERFUL TO EAT...
SFX: KACHIYA...
OHOH ...
THIS PROVES THAT THE TOFU IS VERY SOLID INDEED!
FI.. FIVE TOFU STACKED UP WITHOUT BREAKING APART!
49
THE WAY YOU PREPARED THE TOFU IS VERY INTERESTING, SHOUAN!
DISCUSS
DISCUSS
DISCUSS
トOOO
SFX: TOROORO...
SFX: SAKUU

YES... YOUR HIGHNESS!
TO MAKE THE TOFU AND MEAT INTO THE 'ULTIMATE COMBINATION',
I THOUGHT TO MAKE THE TEXTURE OF THE TOFU SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE MEAT!
THIS IS ALSO THE REASON I* BELIEVED THAT THE CRISPNESS OF THE TOFU...
MUST BE THE SIXTH ELEMENT!
* SHOUAN IS REFERRING TO HIMSELF IN A VERY HUMBLE MANNER.
PUTTING THE TOFU,
INTO THE HOT, SALTED GINGER WATER
THIS WAY, NOT ONLY COULD I CANCEL THE BEAN TASTE,
THE SALT IN THE WATER CAN ALSO
GIVE SIGNIFIGANT TEXTURE TO THE TOFU!
50
IN THIS WAY...
THIS MEANS THE INSIDE OF THE TOFU IS PROTECTED FROM HEAT AND REMAINS SOFT AND COLD!
SOLID AND HOT
SOFT AND COLD
WHEN THE SURFACE OF THE TOFU IS SOLID FROM THE HEAT, THE INNER AREA STILL REMAINED SOFT AND WATERY!
AND THE TOFU I USED,
IS SOFT AND MADE WITH PLENTY OF WATER!

THE ULTIMATE COMBINATION OF TOFU AND MEAT...
NOT ONLY THAT, YOU CONSIDERED THE 'MIXING OF TEMPERATURE' WHICH WILL PROTECT THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM. A VERY WELL-DONE DISH OF MA-PO TOFU...!
THE TONGUE MAY NOT ONLY ENJOY THE HOT AND SPICINESS OF THE TOFU,
BUT THE CRISPNESS OF THE TOFU AT THE SAME TIME!
WHEN ONE BITES OPEN THE TOFU, THE COOLING FLUID WILL MIX WITH THE INTENSE HEAT,
AND THEREFORE, WILL PROTECT THE FOOD PASSAGES AND THE STOMACH!
51
BRAT
THE END OF YOUR DAYS HAS COME!
I AM NOT SURE IF MAO NOTICED THIS —!
SO 'CRISPNESS' IS REFERRING TO THE PREPARATION OF TOFU...!
OH! SO 'CRISPNESS' IS REFERRING TO THE TEXTURE OF THE TOFU!
THE BATTLE IS PROBABLY OVER!
NOISY
NOISY
ROW!
BUT COME TO THINK OF IT—
MAO LOST TO THE ONE WHOM HIS MOTHER TRAINED— IT MUST HURT!
ROW
ROW

THERE AREN'T ANY PROBLEMS WITH YOUR TOFU ARE THERE?
HEY! MAO!
NOISY
NOISY
URGH
GENERAL LEE IS RINSING HIS MOUTH...
HE IS READY TO TASTE MAO'S MA-PO TOFU...!
CROWD
CROWD
I NEVER THOUGHT OF...
THE TOFU...!
BUT...
IF MY THINKING IS CORRECT...!
92
NOISY
NOISY
MAO'S MA-PO TOFU!
.....
CROWD
FINALLY IT'S
CROWD
WHAT —?

HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
モグ
モグ
モグ
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!

!!
TH... THIS IS..!
SUCCESS!
!!!
HUFF! HUFF!
!!

HUFF!
HUFF! HUFF
HUFF
HUFF!
HE IS EATING STRAIGHT FROM THE LARGE BOWL!
EXCUSE
EXCUSE
AOKI
NOISE
NU
NOISE
DOESN'T EVEN BOTHER USING THE SMALLER PLATES!
DIS
DISGUSTING
DIS
AHOH!
GROW
GROW
GROW
GROW
AHOH! GEN GENERAL LEE, HE
GROW
CROWD
!!
95

OHOH ...!
WHAT IS THIS? GENERAL LEE HE...
CROWD
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF
ISN'T SAYING A SINGLE WORD!
HUH
HUH?
BUT ONLY INCREASING HIS SPEED ...!
CROWD
HUH?
.....
カランッ
!!

NOISY
NOISY
HE FINISHED EVERYTHING
WHAT ?
IN ONE BREATH
GEN
!!
52
THE TOFU YOU EACH MADE.
I HAVE TASTED THEM BOTH!
GENERAL LEE

WHILE MSO FACED TOWARD A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT DIRECTION!
SHOWAN MADE THE TOFU CRISP,
THE SIXTH ELEMENT I WAS LOOKING FOR, 'CRISPNESS'
THE BOTH OF YOU HAVE SUCCESSFULLY DISCOVERED...

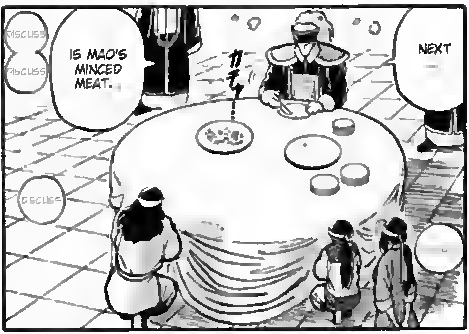
HE MASTERFULLY DISPLAYED THE REALITY OF THE 'SIXTH ELEMENT'!
TRUE THE TOFU SHOWAN CREATED HAS A WONDERFUL TEXTURE,

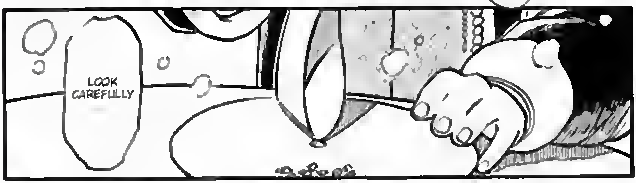
!?
CRISP-NESS IS NOT REFER-RING TO THE TOFU!?
HAS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH TOFU!
HOWEVER, THE 'CRISPNESS' IN THE MAGICAL MA-PO TOFU,

THE CLOSE ATTENTION YOU PAID TO MAKING THE TOFU IS VERY NICELY DONE!
BUT THAT IS... IT!
THAT IS NOT THE MAGICAL MA-PO TOFU!
YOU DID WELL INDEED HOWEVER...
YOUR... YOUR HIGHNESS...!
YOU MEAN...!
IN THIS VAST LAND OF CHINA, THE PEOPLE WHO KNOW OF THIS VERY TECHNIQUE TO PREPARE THE TOFU,
MAY EXCEED THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE!
52
BUT WHEN I SWALLOWED THE FIRST SPOONFUL OF MAO'S MA-PO TOFU,
I KNEW THAT THE TOFU HE MADE,
IS THE ONLY ONE OF THIS WORLD,
HUH?!
THE MAGICAL MA-PO TOFU!
.....!!
AND THE TECHNIQUE TO THE 'CRISPNESS' LIES IN ..

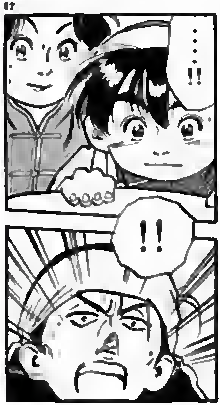
MIN... MINCED MEAT...?
!!
THE MINCED MEAT!
IS THE TRUE SIXTH ELEMENT
THE CRISPY TEXTURE OF THE MEAT,
GENERAL LEE... WHAT IS HE UP TO THIS TIME?
WHAT IS IT?
HE SEPERATED THE MINCED MEAT OF BOTH DISHES!
TO SHOW YOU THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TEXTURE OF THE MINCED MEAT OF THE TWO DIFFERENT DISHES...
NOW I WILL USE MY SENSE OF SIGHT AND HEARING
THE ONES I HAVE CHOSEN ARE THE TOP QUALITY MEAT. I SHOULDN'T LOSE TO HIM IN TEXTURE...
NO... EVEN IF THE 'CRISPINESS' IS BASED ON THE MINCED MEAT

LET'S LOOK AT SHOLAN'S MINCED MEAT!
FIRST...
ギュッ
ギュウウウウウウ
ギュウウウウウウ
!!
ドーン!!


DISCUSS
DISCUSS
IS MAO'S MINCED MEAT.
ガチャ
NEXT
DISCUSS
……?
CROWD
CROWD


LOOK CAREFULLY

87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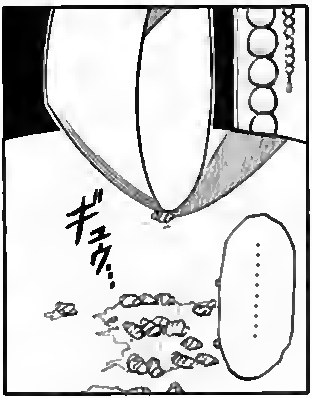
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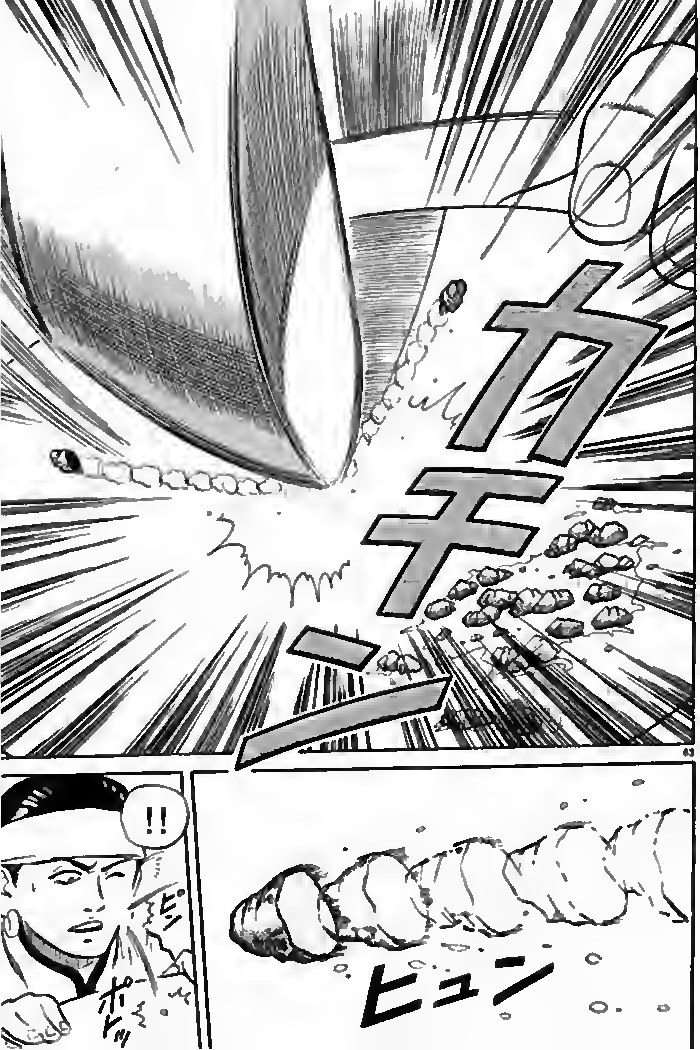
……

ギュ…


カキーン
!!
ヒュン

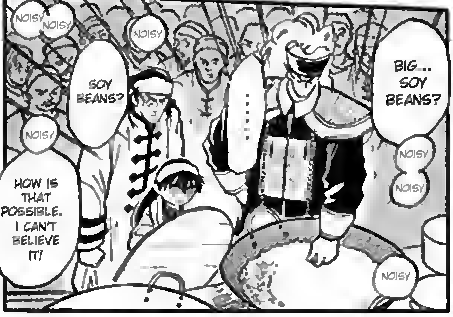
AND SHOUAN'S MINCED MEAT DID NOT SPLIT! IT ONLY CHANGED SHAPE...!
CROWD
CROWD
CROWD
CROWD
CROWD
NOISY
NOISY
NOISY
NOISY
NOISY
DID... DID YOU GUYS HEAR THAT?
YEAH, I'M SURE I HEARD THE CLANG OF THE SPOON HITTING THE PLATE
BECAUSE MAO'S MINCED MEAT WAS SPLIT OPEN
カモーン
SUCH UNBELIEVABLE QUALITY
カチャ
カチャ
WHA WHAT IS THIS?
.....
14
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT KIND OF MEAT IT IS, OR IN WHAT WAYS IT WAS PROCESSED,
THERE MUST BE TRACES OF TENDON LEFT OVER!

ALL IN SMALL PIECES,
THEY SHOULD PRODUCE A CONTRAST IN COLOR.
THE BODY OF THE MINCED MEAT ...
BESIDES, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHICH METHOD YOU USE,
THIS PRODUCES A SMOOTH AND SOOTHING TEXTURE FOR THE MOUTH!
カチン カチン
REMAINED EQUAL IN COLOR, EVEN AFTER INTENSE HEATING, AND WITH NO TRACE OF TENDON!
HOWEVER MAO'S MINCED MEAT,
カチン
クスッ
GENERAL LEE...
WHAT KIND OF MEAT IS THIS...?
MAO! I HOPE YOU CAN TELL ME ...

ACTUALLY...
THIS ISN'T MEAT!
!?
WHAT!?
IT ISN'T... IT ISN'T MEAT...?

IS THIS!
THE SECRET TO THAT,
A MEAT THAT IS NOT MEAT?
.....!?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
NOISY
WOULD EVERYONE PLEASE FOLLOW ME TO THE KITCHEN?
?
WHAT IS THAT?
!?
IS IT HERE?
YES!
CROWD
DISCUSS

SOY BEANS?
THIS... THIS IS...

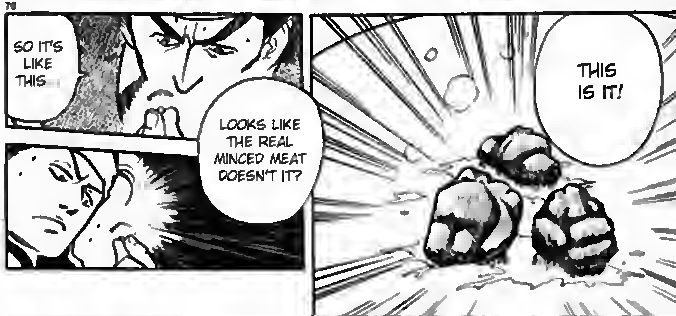

NOISY
NOISY
NOISY
SOY BEANS?
NOISY
HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE. I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
BIG... SOY BEANS?
NOISY
NOISY
NOISY

THE SOY BEAN IS ALSO CALLED
'THE MEAT IN THE GARDEN'!

PROCESS THESE SOY BEANS?
HEY, HOW DID YOU...
WAS SOY BEANS?
SO, THE MEAT JUST ATE
INTO STEWED SOUP TO BOIL!
FIRST, I PUT THE SOY BEANS, SOAKED IN WATER,
TO FULLY EMPHASIZE THE TASTE OF THE SOY BEANS!
AND ADDED IN MIXED SAUCES,
THEN I FLATTENED THEM,
WAIT A MINUTE
HELPS THE SOY BEANS CAPTURE THE RICH FLAVOUR OF THE STEW!
THE TASTE OF THE MIXED SAUCES,
CHOPPED THEM INTO PIECES,

THE BEEF FLAVOUR SHOULDN'T HAVE REMAINED IN THE BEANS
THAT'S TRUE. BESIDES, THESE BEANS WERE FIRST CHOPPED, THEN PROCESSED FOR FLAVOUR
THAT'S RIGHT!
THERE IS NO WAY THAT THE BEEF FLAVOUR WOULD STAY!
THE WAY YOU PREPARED THIS TO CREATE THE BEEF FLAVOUR, WHEN YOU SET IT DOWN TO BOIL, THE FLAVOUR SHOULD HAVE BEEN LOST IN THE SAUCES OF MA-PO TOFU!
BUT I CAN GIVE THE BEANS A SUITABLE FIRMNESS, MAKING THE TEXTURE OF THE BEANS IDENTICAL TO THOSE OF MEAT!
I NOT ONLY CAN PRESERVE THE DELICIOUS FLAVOUR,
THAT IS WHY I DEEP FRIED THEM IN THE END!
THE TEXTURE OF MEAT
THE DELICIOUS TASTE OF THE SAUCE
BY PROCESSING IT THIS WAY...




SO IT'S LIKE THIS...
LOOKS LIKE THE REAL MINCED MEAT DOESN'T IT?
THIS IS IT!

THIS IS WHY I CHOSE THIS CHALLENGE FOR YOU TWO!
.....!!
THIS... THIS IS MASTER'S MA-PO TOFU..!
WAS THE 'SZECHUAN GODDESS' FORMER MASTER COOK OF KIKKARO* WHO IS ALSO...
THE ONE WHO CREATED THIS DISH OF MAGICAL MA-PO TOFU
YOUR MASTER, AND MAO'S MOTHER
IT SEEMS YOU'VE FINALLY NOTICED! SHOUAN!
AH!

*FROM THIS POINT ON JU XIA LOU WILL BE REFERRED TO BY ITS ORIGINAL NAME KIKKARO

SO I CHECKED THE ECONOMIC YEARLY RECORD OF THE YEAR GENERAL LEE CAME TO SZECHUAN!
BY COINCIDENCE I FOUND OUT THAT ABOUT TEN YEARS AGO .
THERE WAS A DEADLY DISEASE SURROUNDING COWS THEREFORE THERE WERE NO MEAT RESOURCES FOR EATING!
WHICH MEANS, THAT YEAR, IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE MA-PO TOFU!
YOU DID VER WELL, MAO! YOU SOLVED MY CHALLENGE
ACTUALLY, AT THAT TIME..
I WAS THINKING THAT THE MAGICAL MA-PO TOFU MIGHT BE MADE BY MY MOM!
AND THIS REALLY HAPPENED THAT YEAR I CAME TO SZECHUAN?
REALLY

OF COURSE WENT INTO OUR STOMACHS
AND THE EXPERIMENTS THAT TIME,
MOM TRIED VERY HARD TO MAKE IT, SUBSTITUTING MINCED MEAT WITH OTHER INGREDIENTS
BECAUSE MA-PO TOFU IS A VERY POPULAR DISH .

THE MAGICAL MA-PO TOFU!
SHOULD BE THE DISH GENERAL LEE ATE TEN YEARS AGO...
THAT'S WHY I THINK THAT THIS DISH OF MA-PO TOFU
THE PROTEIN OF THE SOY BEAN IS VERY EASY TO DIGEST

I'VE TRIED VERY HARD TO RECALL THE MEMORIES OF THAT TIME
AND THEREFORE I WAS CERTAIN THAT THE INGREDIENT MOM USED WAS SOY BEANS!

SO YOU ARE SAYING...
WE WERE ABLE TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF THIS DISH, SIMPLY FROM YOUR CHILDHOOD MEMORIES AND YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDINGS?

IS THAT SO...
.....

YES.. THE FLAVOUR OF MY MOM'S DISHES, I ONLY NEED TO TRY THEM ONCE,
AND I'LL REMEMBER EVERYTHING!

SHOLIAN, YOU TOO SHOULD HAVE TRIED THIS FLAVOUR BEFORE, CORRECT?

THE MA-PO TOFU MADE BY SHOUAN WAS INDEED WONDERFUL,
BUT ...
BUT TO RELY ON ALMOST NON-EXISTANT MEMORIES...
HE WAS ABLE TO FIGURE OUT THAT THE MEAT WAS MADE FROM SOY BEANS...! THIS BRAT IS TO BE FEARED!
THAT IS DEFINITELY MAO'S MOTHER'S... MASTER'S FLAVOUR!
YE...
YES!
. . . . . !!!
THE RESULT OF THIS BATTLE...
I THINK EVERYONE ALREADY KNOWS WHO THE VICTOR IS!

WHILE AT THE SAME TIME IT HAS THE DELICATE TEXTURE OF THE MEAT!
IT DOESN'T HAVE THE TIRING RICHNESS OF ORDINARY MEAT. ONLY THE DELIGHTFUL TASTE EXISTS.
I PONDERED THIS QUESTION FOR TEN YEARS, BUT WAS UNABLE TO COME TO ANY SOLUTION.
THE SIXTH ELEMENT, CRISPNESS!
AS IF THE TONGUE IS ORCHESTRATING THE MELODIES OF THE MAGICAL MA-PO TOFU!
TOFU AND MEAT COMBINED,
HOWEVER, THIS NO LONGER REMAINS A MYSTERY!
WELL DONE! MAO!

NOT TOO BAD! MAO!
YAY! MAO!
THAT WAS INDEED MOM'S FLAVOUR!
I DID IT SIS!
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS! MAO!

I EVEN LOST THE AUTHORITY TO REMAIN AS A COOK FOREVER
THE HONOR OF BEING KIKKARO'S NEW MASTER COOK SHOULD HAVE BEEN ALL MINE!

WE WILL SEE! MAO!
BUT... I WON'T STOP HERE...!

ALRIGHT! OUR NEW MASTER COOK!
COME! SIT ON MY SHOULDERS!

WE CAN TRY IT TOO!?
LET EVERYONE TRY IT!
MAO! THAT DELICIOUS DISH OF SOY BEAN MA-PO TOFU...
THA... THAT'S GREAT!
YEAH! AND NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU EAT, YOU CAN NEVER GET TIRED OF THE REFRESHING FLAVOUR!
THIS TASTES EVEN BETTER THAN BEEF ITSELF!
NOISY
CROWD
THIS IS THE FLAVOUR OF THE FORMER MASTER COOK!? IT'S A PITY SHE ISN'T WITH US ANYMORE...
HMM!
IS THAT SO?
BUT I DO BELIEVE THAT A CHILD OF SUCH A YOUNG AGE...
BEING IN CHARGE OF THE SZECHUAN PROVINCE APPOINTED RESTAURANT IS A BIT...
PLEASE EXCUSE MY RUDENESS...
YOUR HIGHNESS! YOU MEAN YOU ARE GOING TO LET A 13 YEAR OLD BECOME MASTER COOK?
.....

IT IS RUMORED THAT EVER SINCE ANCIENT TIMES MANY INFAMOUS COOKS DEPENDED ON THE FLAVOUR OF THEIR MEMORIES
TO BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT THE CERTAIN INGREDIENTS USED...
EVEN I COULDN'T SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF THE SOY BEANS...
AND THIS YOUNG MAN WAS ABLE TO RECREATE THIS DISH FROM MEMORIES OF TEN YEARS AGO.
I WOULD SAY THAT LETTING HIM BE THE MASTER COOK OF THE SZECHUAN PROVINCE APPOINTED RESTAURANT... IS SIMPLY UNDERESTIMATING HIM...!

MY MOM WAS THE FORMER MASTER COOK OF A RESTAURANT IN SZECHUAN PROVINCE. 'KIKKARO' YOU CAN SAY THAT I WAS RAISED IN A KITCHEN!
AFTER MOM PASSED AWAY, IN ORDER TO KEEP KIKKARO, I AGREED TO TAKE PART IN 'THE BATTLE OF CUISINE'!
I WAS BORN IN THE SZECHUAN PROVINCE, CHINA, AND AM 13 YEARS OLD
MY NAME IS MAO LIU! EVERYONE CALLS ME MAO!
HOWEVER
AFTER DEFEATING MY MORTAL ENEMY, SHOUAN, I EARNED THE TITLE OF MASTER COOK
AI
IT'S SO FAR! GUANGZHOU

MAY THE GODDESS OF LUCK
SHINE DOWN ON US

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# 中華小廚師

## 第二話　前往「美食之都」！

SHE WAS INDEED A RARE MASTER COOK HONORING THE NAME OF "KIKKARO"
THE SZECHUAN GODDESS
SLUMPERS HERE FOR ETERNITY
YOU MUST UNDERTAKE THE RESTAURANT'S GRAVE RESPONSIBILITIES.
MAO, ALTHOUGH YOU ARE STILL FAIRLY YOUNG IN AGE,
THEREFORE IN THESE THREE MONTHS BEFORE YOU FORMALLY BEGIN YOUR
I HOPE YOU CAN GO TO GUANGZHOU!
HAVE YET TO MATURE!
HOWEVER, YOUR CUTTING TECHNIQUES AS WELL AS THE CONTROL OVER TEMPERATURE,
THE BEST SOLUTION IS TO START YOUR TRAINING WITH VEGETABLES!
IN ORDER TO TRAIN YOUR CUTTING SKILLS AND CONTROLLING THE TEMPERATURE

THE SEAFOOD IS EXTREMELY RICH!
GUANGDONG PROVINCE
GUANGZHOU
THE FAMOUS SAYINGS OF THE ANCIENTS "IF YOU EAT, EAT IN GUANGZHOU"
WHAT ? GUANG-GUANGZHOU?
ガーン
WHY SOME PLACE SO FAR AWAY ?
THUS CHEFS IN GUANGDONG INDEED DO DEMONSTRATE THEIR MASTERY IN CULINARY ARTS!!
FOILING ORIGINAL FLAVORS OF INGREDIENTS, CATONESE CUISINE STRIVES TO BE APPETIZING WITHOUT BEING OVERLY SALTY!
NATURAL FLAVORS OF VEGETABLES INTO SENSUOUS CULMINATION!
FURTHERMORE THERE IS ONE MASTER CHEF WHO IS ABLE TO TRANSFORM THE
IN THESE THREE MONTHS, PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE TEACHINGS OF "VEGETABLES" ADJUSTMENTS!!
BRING THIS RECOMMEN-DATION LETTER TO HIM.
CONSIDER THIS AS THE REQUIREMENT TO BECOME THE MASTER COOK!
HE IS THE MASTER COOK OF THE INFAMOUS RESTAURANT "YOSEN SHUKA" OF GUANGZHOU!!
THE EMINENT COOKING MASTER, RUOH!
家常鮮菜

GUANGZHOU THE CAPITAL OF GUANGDONG PROVINCE
IT IS A HARBOR CITY IN PEARL DELTA RIVER. THE LARGEST CITY IN SOUTHERN CHINA
WHAT A BROAD STREET!
NOISY
NOISY
SIS WOULD DEFINITELY WANT TO TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!
NOISY
AS OTHERS SAYS, "WHEN YOU EAT, EAT IN GUANGZHOU!"
BOY! THEY ARE SURE CORRECT ABOUT THAT! THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF SEAFOOD HERE!
NO WONDER THE CANTONESE DISH IS ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE THE INGREDIENTS' ORIGINAL FLAVOR!
NOISY
NOISY
NOISY

AH!!! HURRY! CATCH IT QUICKLY!!
THESE THINGS ARE SURE WEIRD. HOW CAN PEOPLE STAND THESE?
I ALSO HEARD THAT THE CITIZENS OF GUANGDONG EAT ALL SORTS OF WEIRD THINGS!
ガサッ ガサガサ シュルルルル
HMM..?
OH, OH MY! HOW COME THE HEAD OF THIS SNAKE IS SO HUGE--!
HELP HELP ME--!!
AH...
WAHH-!!!

HAHAHA! SORRY!
I KINDA LET IT SLIP AWAY...
DANGEROUS EVENTS OFTEN HAPPEN AROUND HERE!
BE CARE-FUL!
.....
.....
UM EXCUSE ME
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT COBRAS?
YOU'RE NOT FROM AROUND HERE ARE YA?

I WORK THERE...
WHAT ?
"YOSEN SHUKIKA?"
DO YOU KNOW OF THE RESTAURANT CALLED "YOSHEN SHUCIKA?"
AH! I AM MAO! I AM 13 YRS OLD
NICE TO MEET YOU TOO
AH! THAT'S RIGHT! I AM MEI LING. I AM FOURTEEN THIS YEAR. NICE TO MEET YOU!
IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND SOMETHING JUST ASK ME!
OKAY!
WHA~ YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY FROM SZECHUAN JUST TO LEARN MORE ABOUT COOKING~~
MUST BE VERY TIRING.

NOISY
NOISY
NOISY
NOISY
NOISY
NOISY
NOISY
THIS.. THIS IS THE "YOSEN SHUUKA?!"
WOW... WOW! THIS IS JUST LIKE A PALACE--!

OVER HERE! MAO!

REALLY !!

BECAUSE WE HAVE THE BEST COOKS OF GUANGDONG WORKING FOR US!
YUP!
NOISY
NOISY
ALL ALL THOSE PEOPLE LINING UP ARE THE CUSTOMERS ?!
NOISY
NOISY

THE OIL IS ALMOST EMPTY!
SFX GOOD
COMING RIGHT AWAY!
POUR
POUR
WOW...
FRY
FRY
FRY
FRY

IS THE BARBE-CUED PORK READY YET?
HURRY!
NOISY
THREE BIG PLATES!
NOISY
NOISY

WHO IS ALSO MY DAD ...
WHAT? YOUR DAD?

MAO, LOOK OVER THERE,
THAT'S THE CO-MASTER COOK, CHOYU!

EVERYONE IS AWESOME! MEI LING!
SUCH A HUGE KITCHEN! ALONG WITH SO MANY SKILLFUL CHEFS TOO!
YES!

HURRY!
HURRY!
WE DON'T WANT TO KEEP THE CUSTOMERS WAITING!

YES!

GET ME THE SHRIMPS !!!

SFX: GUO
SFX: BIYA
12
HE IS ABLE TO FLIP THEM ALL AT ONCE!
OH MY ! TH THAT MANY SHARK FINS!
AW AWE-SOME!
SFX: BASHIYA
WAH!

PLATES..!
13
ACTUALLY, YOU CAN SAY THAT MY DAD TAKES CONTROL OF THE RESTAURANT
SINCE MASTER RUOH HARDLY SHOWS UP AT THE RES-TAURANT
EVEN I HAVE NEVER SEEN HIM!
AWE-SOME
NOISY
GENERAL LEE'S RECOM-MENDATION LETTER?
WHAT! IT'S ONLY A KID!

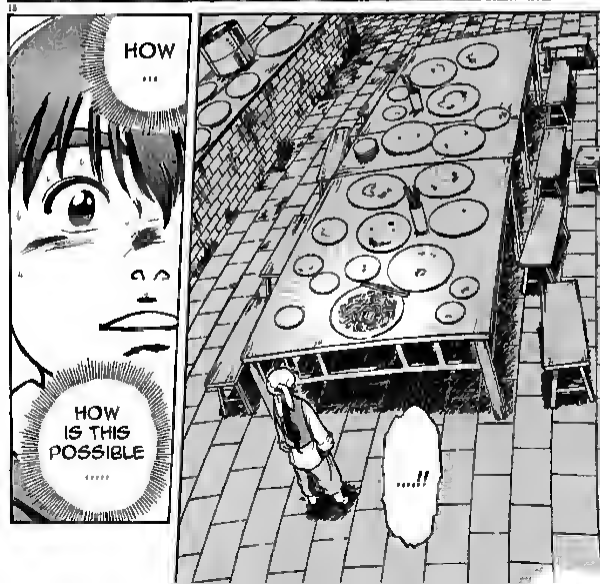
DAD !!
AH!
!!
...!!
I WILL PASS THE NONSENSE
ポイ
ガ!!!
パーン
カニ
パチ
LET'S SEE... HOW ABOUT A DISH OF ROYAL CABBAGE?
LET'S SEE YOU MAKE A DISH!
RIGHT NOW IS JUST ABOUT OUR MEAL TIME.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY WOULD ALLOW ME TO COOK ON THE FIRST DAY!
ALTHOUGH HIS IMPRESSIONS ARE SCARY, HE IS AN UNDER-STANDING PERSON AFTER ALL!
THE ROYAL CABBAGE HAS A VERY UNIQUE FLAVOUR AND CRISPNESS IT CAN BE SAID TO BE THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL CHINESE VEGETABLES!
BOIL THE WATER IN ONE POT
WHILE HEAT THE OTHER POT TO THE DEGREE THAT SMOKE COME OUT
パ・パ・
チッ
チゴオオオオオオ
13
FIRST, THROW THE ROYAL CABBAGE INTO THE HOT WATER TO BOIL!
IF I DON'T DO THIS, IT WILL BE HARD FOR THE ROYAL CABBAGE TO BE BOILED UP!
...
I AM DONE BOILING!
NOW I CAN BEGIN SAUTE-ING

AND LEAVE THEM A STRONG IMPRESSION OF ME!
AS FOR THE SEASONING I WILL USE THE STRONG SZECHUAN FLAVOR!
ゴウ
ゴウ
ONE LAST TIME!
ゴウ
PREPARING A DISH OF ROYAL CABBAGE IS TOO EASY!
DONE!
ジュオオオオオオ

MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
CHEW
CHEW
MUNCH
CHEW
CHEW
MUNCH
....
HURRY! HURRY UP AND TRY MY DISH!
....
CHEW
CHEW
17
AH?
MUNCH
CHEW
CHEW
AHH---- I AM FULL! SO FULL!
I CAN TAKE A NICE NAP NOW BEFORE THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE AFTERNOON!
MUNCH

!!


HOW ...
HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE .....
...!!

WHY ?
WHY .
WAS LEFT UNTOUCHED BY ANYONE!
HOW COME THE ROYAL CABBAGE I PREPARED,
IS IT TOO STRONG TO GUANGDONG PEOPLE'S LIKINGS
IS IT BECAUSE THE SZECHUAN FLAVOR
COULD IT BE THAT I COULDN'T EVEN PREPARE THE MOST BASIC DISH---!
IN "KIKKARO" THE DISHES MOM PREPARED WAS POPULAR EVEN AMONG THE SOLDIERS FROM GUANGDONG!
NO I PREPARED THE MEAL AS MOM TAUGHT ME...
IT IS THE MOST COMMON VEGETABLE!
THE ROYAL CABBAGE IS SAID TO BE THE MOST USED VEGETABLE!

I REALLY DON'T UNDER-STAND
WITH THE ROYAL CABBAGE I PREPARED
WHAT IS WRONG ?!
UMM
HUH--
ガチャ!

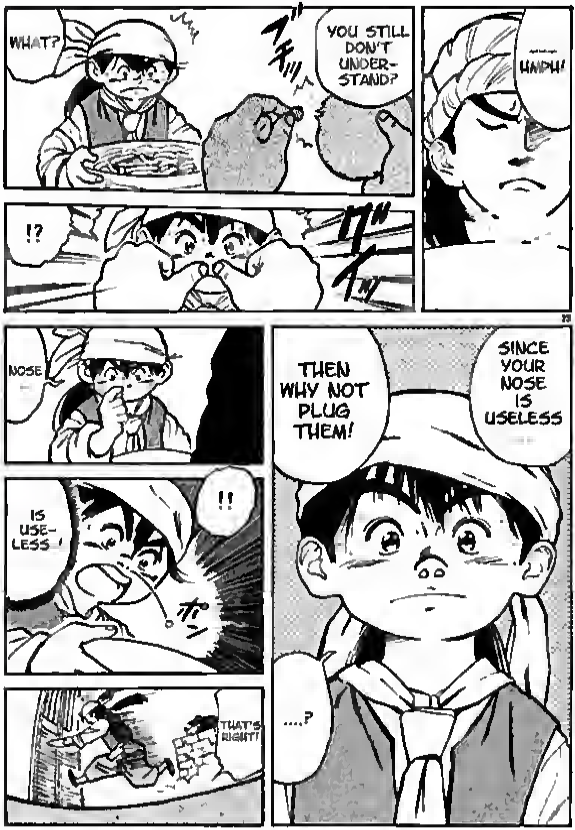
AH?

...!!
...

....
SU
IT'S THE CO-MASTER COOK, CHOYU!

モゲ
モゲ
ガリ
ガリ
ガリ
ガリ
WHAT DID YOU COME FOR?
ガリ

THIS MEANS
OH, HE IS JUST HERE TO EAT STEAMED BUNS!
DAMN ---!!
HE WANTS TO TELL ME THAT HE WOULD RATHER EAT SOMETHING SO TASTELESS
THAN EATING THE DISH I PREPARED!
PLEASE EAT THIS,
ALONG WITH THE STEAMED BUN


WHAT?
YOU STILL DON'T UNDER-STAND?
HMPH!
!?
NOSE
IS USE-LESS!
!!
THAT'S RIGHT!
....?
THEN WHY NOT PLUG THEM!
SINCE YOUR NOSE IS USELESS

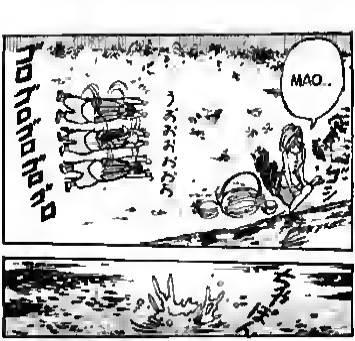
...
スンスン
THIS SMELL
スンスン
AH..!

WHEN AWAY FROM THE KITCHEN YOU CAN CLEARLY IDENTIFY THE SMELL!
THIS SMELL
ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT OBVIOUS
モワ!!
BUT IT DOES SMELL OF MUD!

COOKING IS NOT ALL ABOUT TASTE!
TO A EATING PERSON, THE FIRST THING THEY NOTICE IS THE 'SCENT' OF THE DISH.
THEREFORE, IF A DISH FAILS TO EXECUTE 'SCENT', NO ONE WILL BE WILLING TO TRY THE DISH!
"SCENT!"
THE KITCHEN IS FULL OF DIFFERENT SCENTS.
YET EVERYONE CAN EASILY DISTINGUISH--
THE SLIGHTEST SMELL OF MUD!

RUB-BISH!
B-BUT WHEN I PREPARED THE SAME DISH IN SZECHUAN,
IT NEVER HAD THIS MUDDY SMELL
...?
IF YOU DON'T EVEN UNDERSTAND THE PRINCIPLES,
THEN YOUR COOKING TECHNIQUES ARE USELESS IN THE "CAPITAL OF DELICACIES", GUANGZHOU
THE CUSTOMS AND OBJECTIVES OF YOUR HOMETOWN AND GUANGZHOU
ARE VERY DIFFERENT!

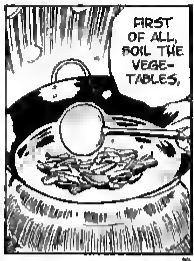
.....
FROM WHAT I SEE RIGHT NOW...
IT'S BETTER IF YOU JUST RETURN TO SZECHUAN!
!!
WHAT DID YOU SAY!
...!!
27
DARN IT—!!


MAO..
I AM SO MAD !!!

I SECRETLY BORROWED THE KITCHEN
DURING THE REST OF THAT AFTER-NOON
BUT NO MATTER WHAT I DID, THE RESULT WAS STILL THE SAME!
78
THE ROYAL CABBAGE HERE AND THE ROYAL CABBAGE IN SZECHUAN ARE EXACTLY THE SAME!
IT FEELS AS IF I AM UNDER A CURSE... MEI LING!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

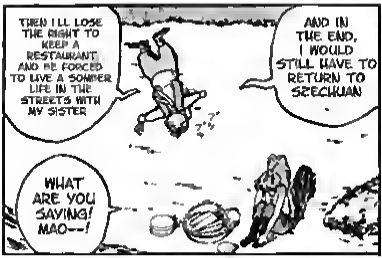
THE SMELL OF MUD WOULD SUDDENLY DISAPPEAR!
WHEN I WAS IN THE COUNTRY-SIDE, THIS HAD NEVER HAPPENED!

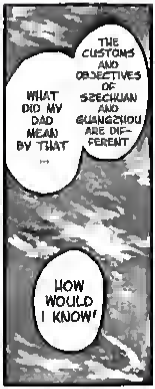
AND THEN SAUTEE THEM, BUT

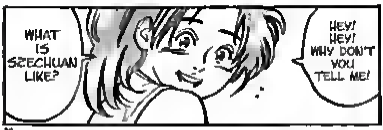

FIRST OF ALL, BOIL THE VEGE-TABLES,

THE MOUNTAINS OF SZECHUAN AND GUANZHOU
IS THERE A DIFFERENCE AT ALL---!

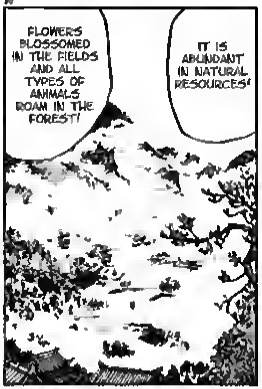
IF THIS CONTIN-UES ON
I WOULD BE FORCED TO RETURN TO SZECHUAN!


THEN I'LL LOSE THE RIGHT TO KEEP A RESTAURANT AND BE FORCED TO LIVE A SHABBY LIFE IN THE STREETS WITH MY SISTER
AND IN THE END, I WOULD STILL HAVE TO RETURN TO SZECHUAN
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING! MAO--!


THE CUSTOMS AND OBJECTIVES OF SZECHUAN AND GUANGZHOU ARE DIFFERENT
WHAT DID MY DAD MEAN BY THAT ...
HOW WOULD I KNOW!


WHAT IS SZECHUAN LIKE?
HEY! HEY! WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME!

30


FLOWERS BLOSSOMED IN THE FIELDS AND ALL TYPES OF ANIMALS ROAM IN THE FORESTS!
IT IS ABUNDANT IN NATURAL RESOURCES!

SZECHUAN IS A VERY VAST PLACE.
AND MY HOMETOWN IS LOCATED IN THE MOUNTAINS!
SZECHUAN

サラサラ
サラサラ
WHAT ARE YOU DOING! MAO! DON'T RUIN!
DURING THE SUMMER MY SISTER AND I WOULD CATCH SOME SMALL FISHES AND CRABS
AND THERE IS ALSO A STREAM NEAR OUR HOUSE.
31
SUCH A LARGE RIVER CAN BE FORMED
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT AFTER ALL THESTREAMS CONVERGE,
THE STREAMS IN THE MOUNTAINS ARE CHILLING TO THE BONES...!!
I WOULD REALLY LIKE TO SEE IT!
ARE THE STREAMS REALLY THAT BEAU-TIFUL.

!!
HEY!
ALAS! ALAS!
I DROPPED MY WINE POT INTO THE RIVER!
AH ALRIGHT
WHAT?
BUT CAN YOU PLEASE RETRIEVE IT FOR ME?
I AM SORRY!
ヒッ

HEHE SO SORRY ABOUT THIS.
UEH! HERE YOU GO!
BE CAREFUL, MAO!
WAH!
AH!
GOOD THING IT WASN'T TOO LATE!
THANKS! THANK YOU!
SU SUCH A WASTE! MAO! ALL THE WINE IS LEAKING OUT!
AH!

COME AND TAKE A LOOK!
LOOK!
THE WINE IS SO BEAUTIFUL!
IT WILL BE MY TREAT TO THE PEARL RIVER TODAY!
HAH. IT'S ALRIGHT
ヒック
I AM SO SORRY, GRAND-PA!
WAH— IT'S ALL LEAKING OUT!!
!!

サラサラサラ……

THIS IS WHAT THEY MEAN BY "THE COMPARISON BETWEEN THE JINGHE RIVER AND THE WEIHE RIVER"!
WO...WOW! THE PLACE MIXED WITH THE WINE LOOKS BEAUTIFUL.
GRANDPA WHAT DID YOU SAY?
WHAT?
33
UMM
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
HE SAID "THE COMPARISON BETWEEN THE JINGHE RIVER AND THE WEIHE RIVER!"
MEI LING! WHAT DID THE OLD GRANDPA SAY?

AND THE OTHER IS THE CLEAR WEIHE RIVER!
ONE IS THE FILTHY AND FOUL, JINGHE RIVER!
THERE ARE TWO RIVERS IN THE SHANNXI PROVINCE!
HOWEVER, WHEN THE TWO RIVERS MEET, ONE CAN IDENTIFY THE DIFFERENT SHADES OF THE RIVER. ONE IS CRYSTAL CLEAR WHILE THE OTHER ONE IS FOUL AND DIRTY! THIS IS WHAT THE PHRASE MEAN!
WHEN VIEWING THE TWO RIVERS SEPERATELY THERE REALLY ISN'T ANY DIFFERENCE,
!!
THE COMPARISON BETWEEN THE JINGHE RIVER AND THE WEIHE RIVER
WHICH MEANS, IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND SOMETHING, YOU MUST COMPARE THEM FIRST!

THE RIVERS OF GUANGZHOU...
IT'S TRUE, COMPARED TO THE STREAMS IN MY HOMETOWN...
...!!
COULD .....
COULD IT BE...

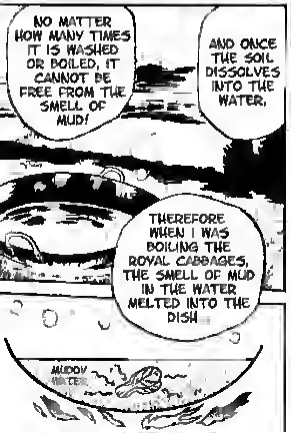
UMM..
MEI LING!
RUNNING AWAY ALL OF A SUDDEN!
WHAT WERE YOU THINK-ING!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
!!
YE YES..!
DO THE CHEFS OF "YOSEN SUIJUKA" COOK WITH THIS WATER?

THE STREAMS OF MY HOMETOWN, SZECHUAN, ARE CLEAN AND CLEAR—
WHILE THE RIVERS OF GUANGZHOU ARE ALL MUDDY WATER!

I WAS RIGHT!
IT'S THE WATER THAT'S DIFFERENT!

IS SOIL..!
AND THE CAUSE OF TURNING THE WATER INTO MUDDY WATER—




NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES IT IS WASHED OR BOILED, IT CANNOT BE FREE FROM THE SMELL OF MUD!
AND ONCE THE SOIL DISSOLVES INTO THE WATER,
THEREFORE WHEN I WAS BOILING THE ROYAL CABBAGES, THE SMELL OF MUD IN THE WATER MELTED INTO THE DISH
MUDDY

I HEARD THAT
NO MATTER HOW CLEAN THE STREAM IS AS LONG AS IT FLOWS NEAR THE PLAINS, THE WATER WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE SOIL.

THERE MUST BE AN ESOTERIC TRICK!
AND ONCE I FIND OUT THE TRICK..!
HA— HA—

--IF THAT'S SO, HOW DO THE CHEFS OF GUANGZHOU,
STOP THE DISHES FROM PRODUCING THE SMELL OF MUD?

THE SOIL WHICH COVERS THE GREAT PLAINS OF CHINA,
FOLLOWS THE EROSION OF THE RIVER, DISSOLVING INTO THE VAST RIVER!
AND GUANGZHOU, OF COURSE, IS NOT AN EXCEPTION.

THE ROYAL CABBAGES WERE ENCLOSED IN THE SMELL OF MUD!
THEREFORE, WHEN I SET THE ROYAL CABBAGES TO BOIL

A TRICK THAT PREVENTS THE ROYAL CABBAGES FROM THE CORRUPTION OF THE MUDDY WATER
THERE MUST BE A TRICK TO THIS!
MAO.

BUT IN GUANGZHOU, ALL THE CHEFS COOKED WITH THE MUDDY WATER AS WELL..!

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MASTER COOKING BOY
Chapter 3: The Wise One
TONIGHT, I MUST FIND OUT THE METHOD!
THEN I WILL FINALLY GET PERMISSION TO STAY!
SFX: JIYUOOOO
MAO ...
.....
JIYU

YES!
THE CLEAR STREAMS OF SZECHUAN AND THE MUDDY WATERS OF GUANGZHOU
ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOU ALREADY NOTICED THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO
CHI CHI CHI CHI CHI

STOP FOOLING AROUND! MOVE IT!
RIGHT NOW IS OUR MEAL TIME!
HEY KID! STOP BEING A SPOILED BRAT! HAVEN'T YOU HAD ENOUGH ALREADY?

EVEN IF YOU WERE ABLE TO REALIZE THE PROBLEM, THE DISHES YOU PREPARE MUST STILL SMELL OF MUD!

UNLESS YOU PROMISE TO LET ME PREPARE ANOTHER DISH OF ROYAL CABBAGE,
OR ELSE I WON'T MOVE

COULD IT BE THAT YOU SPENT THE WHOLE NIGHT
TO FIND THE WAY TO REMOVE THE SMELL!

AND INDEED, I FOUND IT!
WHAT DID YOU SAY...?
chit chat
discuss
discuss
chit

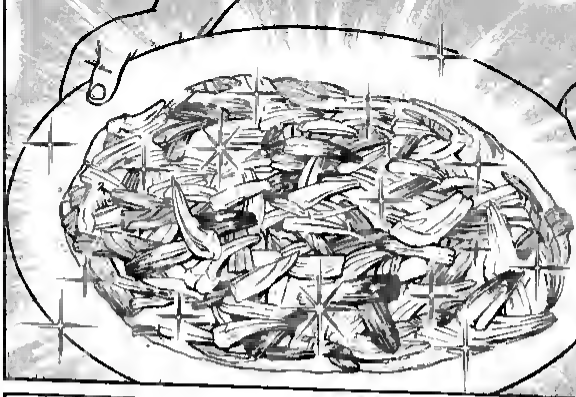
chit chat
THE POT BOILING OF WATER
murmur
murmur
chat
noisy
THE ALREADY CUT ROYAL CABBAGES, THE SZECHUAN FLAVOURED SEASONINGS,
AND THE POT BEING HEATED UP...
chit
chat
chit
chat

IT'S EXACTLY THE SAME AS YESTERDAY!
mu
mu
.....

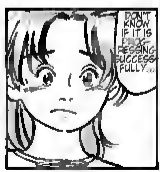
WHY DON'T YOU JUST STAND ASIDE NOW!
MAO
HMPH. WHAT CAN A MONKEY FROM SZECHUAN DO!
SFX: POKO POKO
SFX: POKO POKO
WHAT YOU ALL SAID WAS TRUE!
SO FAR UNTIL NOW, EVERYTHING WAS THE SAME AS YESTERDAY!
THE DIFFERENT PART WILL BE
SA
!?
SFX: POKO POKO

WHA WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT?
!?
chit
chat
chit
chat
STARTING FROM NOW ON!
ボゴボゴ
SFX: BOKO BOKO
PLEASE
THAT KID TOOK OUT A BAMBOO TUBE FROM HIS BOSOM!
nu ay
nu ay
THIS IS MY
WATER "MAGICAL"
OH GOD
THIS IS MY FINAL TRUMP CARD
SFX: SA-
SFX: PON

WHAT IS HE DOING?
NOW I ONLY NEED TO SWIFTLY BOIL THE VEGETABLES IN WATER!
THEN, SAUTEE THE VEGE-TABLES
SFX: JIYA- JIYA-
JUYAAAAAA
PLEASE AID ME....
SAI
IN REMOVING THE SMELL OF MUD!
ボコボコ
SFX: BORO BORO
MASTER CHOYU!
I AM DONE!


THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE IN THE FACE FROM YESTERDAY...

.....


I DON'T KNOW IF IT IS REGAINING SUCCESSFULLY...

LOOKS LIKE...
ni ay

!?
ガッ
グイッ
IS YOUR NOSE ALIVE OR DEAD TODAY!
HMPH...!
IT'S... IT'S ALIVE!
HMM.....!

!!
HE ATE IT!
HE ...
HE ATE IT! MAO!
もぐもぐもぐ
SFX: MOGU MOGU MOGU

……!!
……
ス…
SFX. SU…
HOW WAS IT, DAD! ARE THE ROYAL CABBAGES MAO PREPARED GOOD OR WHAT?
HOW …HOW WAS IT?
OH OH…!
コ…
SFX. KOTO…

IT LOOKS PRETTY GOOD!
SFX: KACHYA KACHYA
WOW...!
SFX: KACHYA KACHYA

UN....
UNBELIEVABLE
...
IT SEEMS AS IF EVERYONE'S CHOPSTICKS ARE DANCING, THE SIGHT IS ENOUGH TO BEDAZZLE ONE'S EYES !!

AH ...
HIYO!
SFX: SUTT
KA SHI-
!?
IS EMPTY
スタ!!!
MY PLATE ....
MY... MY PLATE
ヒョー

THIS PLATE
IS THE ANSWER!
VERY SURPRISING! THE SMELL OF MUD FROM YESTERDAY DISAPPEARED COMPLETELY TODAY!
ITS INCREDIBLE HOW YOU COULD BRING OUT SUCH A FLAVOUR IN A SIMPLE DISH OF ROYAL CABBAGES!
ORIGINALLY I HAD THOUGHT THAT ALL SZECHUAN DISHES WERE ABOUT SPICINESS, I NEVER THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD TASTE THIS GOOD!
!!
I DID IT! MEI LING
HOORAY! MAO!
15

THAT WAS OIL!
!!
WHAT! OIL?
OH, YEAH! KID!
WHAT WAS THE -WATER- YOU POURED INTO THE HOT WATER POT?
HOWEVER, I WAS UNABLE TO REMOVE THE SMELL OF MUD IN THE WATER!
GON
GON
I TRIED AGAIN AND AGAIN!
16
OH ..... AND THEN?
IS IT POSSIBLE TO "BOIL THE VEGETABLES WITHOUT ANY CONTACT WITH THE WATER"!
THEREFORE, I STARTED THINKING FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

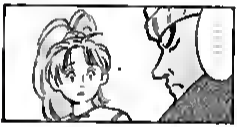
TO FORM AN OIL MEMBRANE ON THE SURFACE OF THE WATER!
oil membrane
I POURED THE OIL INTO THE POT.
THE VEGETABLES THAT I TOSSED INTO THE POT WERE ENVELOPED IN THE OIL, THEREFORE, CREATING A THIN LAYER OF OIL ON THE VEGETABLES!
BECAUSE OF THE LAYER OF OIL ON THE SURFACE
THIS WAY, I WAS ABLE TO BOIL THE VEGETABLES WITHOUT ANY CONTACT WITH THE WATER!
AND BECAUSE OF THAT, THE VEGETABLES DO NOT HAVE THE MUDDY SMELL LIKE YESTERDAY ...
muddy water
NO... ACTUALLY, THIS OIL IS....
WHEN BOILING, YOU USED IT ONCE, WHEN SAUTEING, YOU ADDED IT AGAIN, YOU USED THE OIL TWICE, LOGICALLY, SHOULDN'T THE ROYAL CABBAGES BE OVERLY OILY!
ズイッ
BUT THAT METHOD YOU USED,
I SEE ...
SFX ZU!-

WHEN MAKING SZECHUAN DISHES, THIS IS OFTEN USED AS A FINAL TOUCH UP!
THIS IS MADE FROM A MIXTURE OF CHICKEN GREASE AND PEANUT OIL, AND HAS A DELIGHTFUL TASTE!
SFX BAN
BUT WHEN USING THIS TYPE OF OIL, IT DRAWS OUT THE ORIGINAL FLAVOUR OF THE ROYAL CABBAGES!
IF I USED OTHER OILS, THE DISH WOULD INDEED BE OVERLY GREASY,
18
DAD! MAO WAS TRYING HIS HARDEST FROM THE VERY BEGINNING!
HMM!
HE IS CAREFUL EVEN WHEN HANDLING OIL, THIS KID IS NOT ALL THAT BAD! MASTER CHOYU!
WOW!
WOW!
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS! NO WONDER IT TASTES SO DELICIOUS ...!

PLEASE LET MAO STAY HERE!
I BEG OF YOU, DAD!
ME! LING .....

IT'S TIRING ENOUGH JUST TO GET HERE AND YET HE DIDN'T EVEN CLOSE HIS EYES, NOT EVEN ONCE! HE WAS CONSTANTLY IN THE KITCHEN, EXPERIMENTING OVER AND OVER AGAIN TO FINALLY COME UP WITH THIS SOLUTION!
IN ORDER TO REMOVE THE MUDDY SMELL OF THE WATER, HE WOULD TRY USING WINE FOR AWHILE. THEN HE WOULD MOVE ON TO CONTINUE TESTING BY WRAPPING THE ROYAL CABBAGES IN OILPAPERS.





I WILL WORK VERY HARD!
I I BEG OF YOU!

CAPABLE OF FINDING OUT THE SOLUTION FOR THE MUDDY WATER IN ONE DAY!
GIVE IT A THOUGHT, MASTER CHOYU! THIS KID IS STILL PRETTY YOUNG!
DON'T YOU THINK HE IS PRETTY IMPRESSIVE?
CHIT CHAT

!!
LEARNING IN "YOSEN SHUUKA" IS NOT A FUN THING TO DO! KID!
YES ..... YES!
28
ga ta
!!
ga ta
ga ta
Hi ky
CHIYA-Pon
THERE ARE NO MORE WINE IN THE STORAGE ROOM!
Fu RA RA RA
HAKU
FU RA RA
HEY! CHOYU!

HE IS THE HEAD CHEF OF "YOSEN SHUUKA", MASTER RUOH!
WHEW-!
WHAT?
SFX: PESHI-
!!
AH!
IT'S THE OLD GRANDPA FROM YESTERDAY!

WHY ARE YOU HERE?
OH, AREN'T YOU THE KID FROM YESTERDAY?
chyapon
HE IS HERE TO IMPROVE HIS CUISINE SKILLS!
MASTER CHEF!
RU...
MASTER RUOH?

DID HE ALREADY PASS THE "WASHING OF THE YELLOW SOIL" TRAIL?
HEH HEH.. CHOYU, THIS KID FROM THE MOUNTAINS,
I HAVE HEARD ABOUT YOU, YOU ARE THE CHILD THAT WAS RECOMMENDED BY GENERAL LEE?
OH! I SEE..!
AND HE SUCCEEDED IN FINDING A BEAUTIFUL SOLUTION IN A SHORT DAY'S PERIOD!
YA
YES YES HE DID!
TO PASS THE "WASHING OF THE YELLOW SOIL" TRAIL
BUT ONLY NEEDING A SHORT DAY,
FU !
YOU ARE INDEED THE SON OF THE SZECHUAN GODDESS OF "KIKKARO"!
WHAT HINT
WHAT
POM POM
NI KU
THIS IS ALL THANKS TO THE HINT GIVEN BY YOU, MASTER RUOH!

SOMETIMES, THE SOIL CAN DYE THE ENTIRE EARTH YELLOW,
OTHER TIMES, IT CAN CHANGE THE EAST SEA INTO AN OCEAN OF GOLD...
ND BECAUSE OF THIS, TO US CHINESE PEOPLE, PREPARING MEALS CAN BE EXPL INED AS A BATTLE WITH THE WATERS..
NEVER-THELESS ....

YOU ARE ABLE TO APPRECIATE THE FUNDAMENTALS OF THE GUANGZHOU WATERS. PROVES THAT YOU HAVE AN INTELLIGENCE BEYOND OTHERS!

AS PEOPLE SAY "THE WISE ONE"

YES !!
CHOYU !

YOU SHALL UTILIZE THE DIFFERENT CHARACTERISTICS OF THE VEGETABLES TO IMPROVE YOUR CUTTING SKILLS AND YOUR CONTROL OF TEMPERATURE!
CHIYAPO-
YOU HAVE BETTER PREPARE YOURSELF FOR THIS, WORKING UNDER ME IS NOT AN EASY JOB!
MAO! I HEREBY APPOINT YOU AS A RANK FOUR CHIEF, RESPONSIBLE FOR VEGETABLES!
HOORAY!
HOORAY!
CONGRATULATIONS, MAO!
24
SFX: BA-
MEI ... MEI LING ....
.....!!
ALRIGHT KID! HOW ABOUT A WELCOMING PARTY TONIGHT!
DON'T HUG TOO TIGHT!
HEY
HEY, MEI LING,

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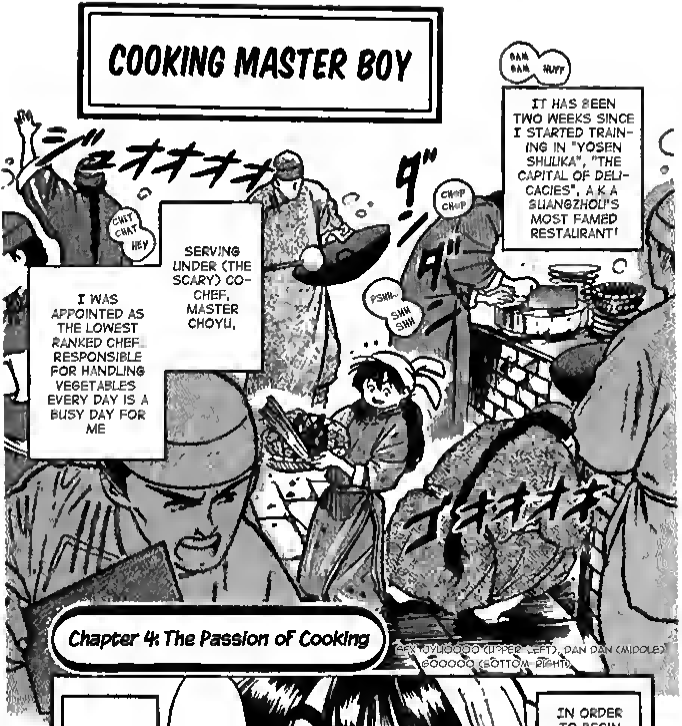
# COOKING MASTER BOY

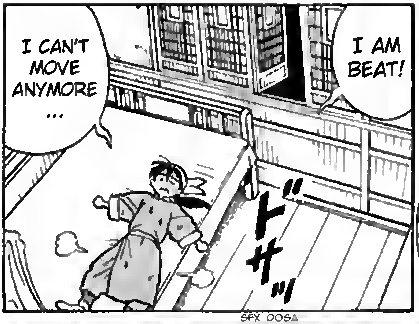

DAN DAN HUFF
IT HAS BEEN TWO WEEKS SINCE I STARTED TRAINING IN "YOSEN SHUUKA", "THE CAPITAL OF DELICACIES", A.K.A SHANGZHOU'S MOST FAMED RESTAURANT!
CHOP CHOP
SERVING UNDER (THE SCARY) CO-CHEF, MASTER CHOYU,
CHIT CHAT HEY
I WAS APPOINTED AS THE LOWEST RANKED CHEF RESPONSIBLE FOR HANDLING VEGETABLES EVERY DAY IS A BUSY DAY FOR ME
SHA- SHA SHA
Chapter 4: The Passion of Cooking
GEN YUUUUUU (UPPER LEFT), DAN DAN (MIDDLE) GOOOOO (BOTTOM RIGHT)
HOWEVER, THERE IS ONE THING THAT BOTHERS ME
.....
IN ORDER TO BEGIN MY TRAINING AS A TRUE CHEF AS SOON AS POSSIBLE I WORK VERY HARD EVERY DAY.

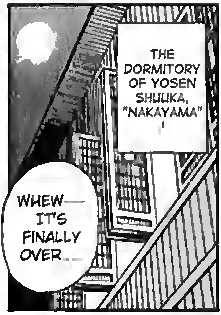
SFX: SO SO
SANCHE! I AM DONE CLEANING THE VEGETABLES!
NINI
GAH .....
NNN
SANCHE—!
SHA SHA
SHU-
HEY
PAN PAN
CHIT CHAT
SFX: SUKA—... (SNORE)
THEN GO AND PEEL THE SKINS OFF!
PSHH-
OH! YOU'RE DONE CLEANING THEM!
CHIT CHAT
CHIT CHAT
BANG BANG
AH.. ALRIGHT
!!
OH.... OH!
HUH!?
HE ALSO TRAINS UNDER MASTER CHOYU, BUT HE IS CONSIDERED TO BE MY SENIOR!
SANCHE, FOURTEEN YEARS OLD!

..... HM PH!
CHIT CHAT
CHIT CHAT
.....
SFX CHIRA
I AM DONE PEEL-ING THEM!
SAN-CHE!
WHAT ...?
CUT ALL THE BAMBOO SHOOTS INTO THIN SLICES!
THEN ...
IS THAT RIGHT ...
YOU'RE FINALLY DONE PEELING THEM
SFX GOSHI

SFX GA
!!
AREN'T YOU THE ONE THAT'S SUPPOSED TO CUT THE VEGETABLES..?
SFX PIKU
I.. I STILL HAVE A LOT OF OTHER THINGS TO DO...
4
...
...
!!
THE ONLY REASON WHY I'M DOING THIS IS SO THAT YOU CAN IMPROVE YOUR CUTTING SKILLS, GOT IT?
SFX GU GU
HOW COME NO ONE NOTICES THIS...!
DAMN
SFX PASHI
....
AGAIN
....
WHO KNOWS WHERE HE WILL GO THIS TIME..!
I AM GOING OUT FOR AWHILE!
DO IT WELL!
SFX FUEAH

MEI LING, HAS SANCHE BEEN HERE FOR A LONG TIME?
YOU ARE REALLY OUT OF LUCK!
BEING PUT IN THIS GROUP, WORKING UNDER HIM!
ABOUT A YEAR NOW!
HIS FATHER IS HEAD CHEF OF A WELL-KNOWN RESTAURANT IN SHANGHAI.
HE ALSO CAME HERE FOR TRAINING!
SFX SCRATCH SCRATCH
THAT GUY IS ROTTEN TO THE CORE!
YOU CAN'T EXPECT ANYTHING FROM HIM!
SFX YAWN AFTER YAWN
3
TELL HIM TO DO ANYTHING AND YOU GET THAT SAME LAZY ATTITUDE!
EVERYONE HERE PRETENDS AS IF HE DOESN'T EVEN EXIST!
DON'T EVEN BOTHER TALKING TO A PERSON LIKE HIM!
THIS IS GOING TOO FAR...
I CAN'T STAND IT! ARGH——!
SFX FUEAH FUEAH!


I CAN'T MOVE ANYMORE ...
I AM BEAT!
トザ
SFX: DOSA

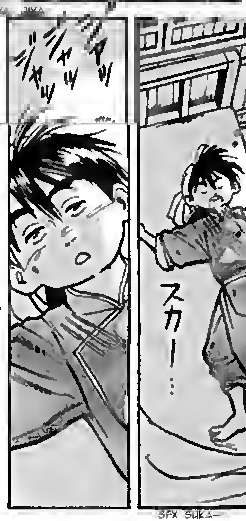

THE DORMITORY OF YOSEN SHUUKA, "NAKAYAMA"
WHEW— IT'S FINALLY OVER...

SFX: JIYA— JIYA— JIYA—

HMM...? WHAT IS THAT SOUND...?
SFX: JIYA— JIYA— JIYA—

SFX: FUFA FUFA
IT'S COMING FROM THE YARD...

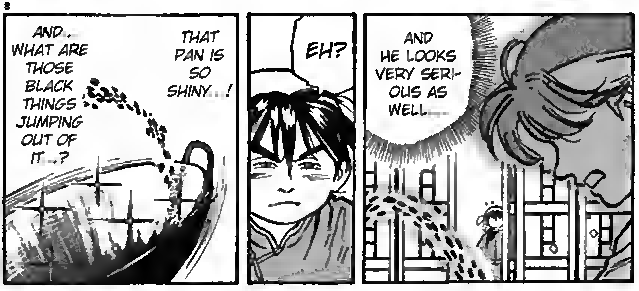
!?


スカー...
SFX: SUKA—

AH... THAT'S ...!
SFX JIYA JIYA JIYA

IT'S SANCHE!

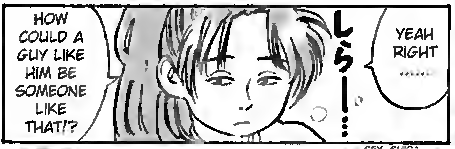
SFX: JIYA— JIYA—
YET HE IS STILL PRACTICING HIS PAN TOSSING SKILLS ...!
IT'S ALREADY THIS LATE,


AND.. WHAT ARE THOSE BLACK THINGS JUMPING OUT OF IT..?
THAT PAN IS SO SHINY..!
EH?
AND HE LOOKS VERY SERIOUS AS WELL...

!!
SFX JIYA- JIYA-
THE REPEATED PRACTICE OF THE PAN TOSSING SKILL HAS TURNED THE RICE BLACK FROM THE CONSTANT RUBBING!
IT'S... IT'S RICE!
!!
EVERY GRAIN OF RICE HAS A UNIFORM BLACK COLOR!
AND AFTER TAKING A CLOSER LOOK,
HE MUST BE PRACTICING EVERY NIGHT!
IF PRACTICED ONLY ONCE IN AWHILE THIS WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO THE PAN OR THE RICE!
SFX JIYA- JIYA- JIYA
THAT'S RIGHT! THE REASON THE PAN SHINES LIKE THAT IS...
BECAUSE OF THE CONSTANT RUBBING BY THE RICE GRAINS!

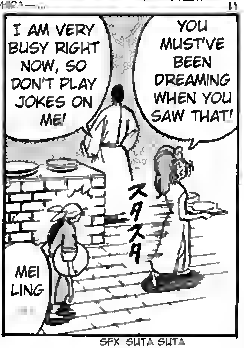
IF EXECUTED WELL, ALL THE INGREDIENTS IN THE PAN RECEIVE THE SAME AMOUNT OF HEAT!
THE PAN TOSSING SKILL IS ONE OF THE KEYS TO COOKING.
THIS PROVES THAT EVERY SINGLE GRAIN OF RICE HAS RUBBED AGAINST THE PAN EVENLY!
IS SOMETHING I CANNOT DO...!
A THING LIKE THIS
YET HE HAS BEEN PRACTICING FOR A WHILE NOW, WITHOUT TAKING ANY REST.
HE'S PUT AN AMPLE AMOUNT OF RICE INTO THE HEAVY PAN,
IS ACTUALLY SOMEONE WHO HAS AN UNBELIEVABLE PASSION FOR COOKING...!
IS ACTUALLY ...
IT'S AMAZING THAT THE YAWNING SANCHE IN THE MORNING,

HE WAS PRACTICING BY HIMSELF IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT!
PAM
PAM
IT'S TRUE! I SAW IT WITH MY OWNS EYES YESTERDAY NIGHT!
SWA SWA
SWA



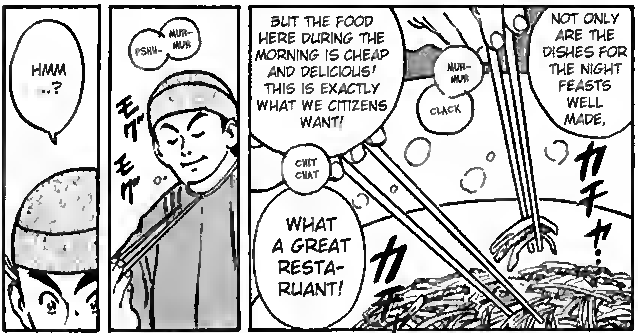

SFX SUTA-...

11

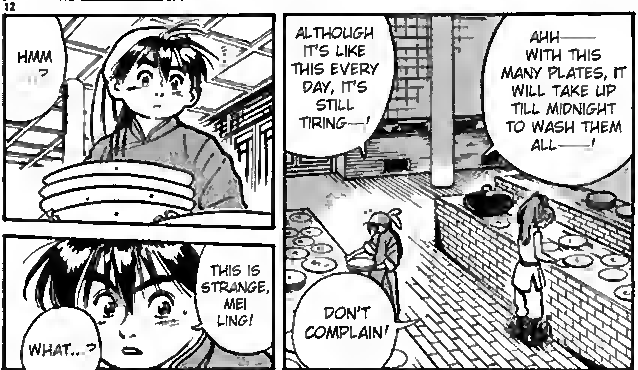



SFX SUTA SUTA

PLEASE ENJOY!
TAN TAN
SHW SHW
SHREDDED PORK WITH GREEN PEPPER! THIS IS MY FAVORITE!
AH! I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS FOR SO LONG!

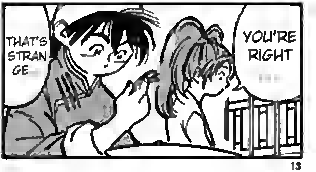

HMM ...?
FSHU-
MUR-MUR
モグ モグ
BUT THE FOOD HERE DURING THE MORNING IS CHEAP AND DELICIOUS! THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT WE CITIZENS WANT!
CHIT CHAT
WHAT A GREAT RESTA-RUANT!
MUR-MUR
CLACK
NOT ONLY ARE THE DISHES FOR THE NIGHT FEASTS WELL MADE,
カチャ
カチャ
SFX MOGU MOGU
SFX KACHIYA KACHIYA

12

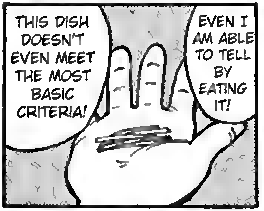

HMM ...?
ALTHOUGH IT'S LIKE THIS EVERY DAY, IT'S STILL TIRING——!
AHH—— WITH THIS MANY PLATES, IT WILL TAKE UP TILL MIDNIGHT TO WASH THEM ALL——!
THIS IS STRANGE, MEI LING!
WHAT...?
DON'T COMPLAIN!

THERE IS STILL SO MUCH LEFT OVER! AND IT'S ALL VEGETABLES....
IN THE PLATES OF THE SHREDDED PORK WITH GREEN PEPPERS—

LET ME TRY THEM...
モグ モグ モグ
SFX MOGU MOGU MOGU


THAT'S STRANGE
YOU'RE RIGHT
SFX PAKU




THIS DISH DOESN'T EVEN MEET THE MOST BASIC CRITERIA!
EVEN I AM ABLE TO TELL BY EATING IT!

THE MOST BASIC ...?

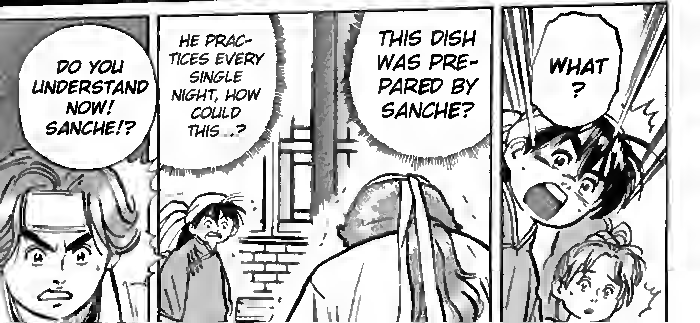
IT TASTES BAD! THIS...
AH...?

ITS KEY POINTS ARE VERY OBVIOUS!
IS A DISH MADE FROM GREEN PEPPERS AND SHREDDED PORK, STIR-FRIED WITH THIN SLICES OF BAMBOO SHOOTS!
IT'S A VERY SIMPLE DISH!
SHRED-DED PORK WITH GREEN PEPPERS —
WHICH MEANS THE MEAT SHOULD BE JUST RIGHT!
TENDER!
THE MEAT MUST BE...
THIS IS A DISH THAT COMBINES THE TWO DIFFERENT ELEMENTS TOGETHER!
WHICH MEANS THAT THEY SHOULD BE CRISP AND FRESH! NEXT...
CRISP!
FIRST, THE VEGE-TABLES NEED TO BE...
I BELIEVE NO ONE WOULD MAKE THESE MISTAKES...
BUT OF THE CHEFS HERE,
IT IS ALSO OVER-COOKED...
NOT ONLY IS IT NOT CRISP,
HOWEVER, IF YOU LOOK AT THE VEG-ETABLES IN THIS PLATE,

SPX. MOBU MOBU

...
!!
DAMN ...!
...
!!
SFX: OON
I WAS THE ONE WHO PRE-PARED IT!
YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?!

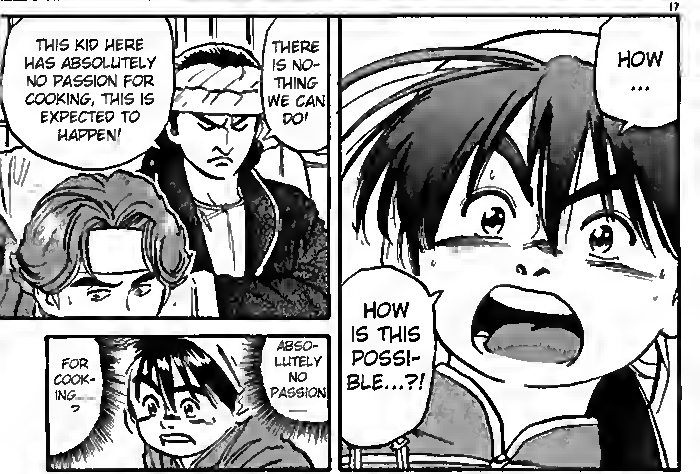



DO YOU UNDERSTAND NOW! SANCHE!?
HE PRAC-TICES EVERY SINGLE NIGHT, HOW COULD THIS ..?
THIS DISH WAS PRE-PARED BY SANCHE?
WHAT ?

DAD—!
MAS... MASTER CHOYU ...!
I... I UNDER-STAND!
AND THAT IS THE "FIXED EMPLOYEE" REGULA-TION!
WE HAVE A RULE IN YOSEN SHULIKA
WHAT'S GOING ON, DAD?
? ?
?
THE "FIXED EMPLOYEE" REGULA-TION?

ONCE MAO ENTERS, ONE OF THE FOURTH RANK CHEFS, SANCHE, MUST LEAVE!
THE SHREDDED PORK WITH GREEN PEPPERS TODAY WAS THE LAST CHANCE GIVEN TO SANCHE BY MASTER CHOYU!
THIS IS A RULE THAT HAS BEEN PASSED DOWN FOR MANY GENERATIONS, MISS MEI LING!
IF A PERSON ENTERS, THEN THERE MUST BE A PERSON THAT LEAVES!
WHAT!?




THIS KID HERE HAS ABSOLUTELY NO PASSION FOR COOKING, THIS IS EXPECTED TO HAPPEN!
THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO!
HOW ...
HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE...?!
ABSOLUTELY NO PASSION——
FOR COOKING——?

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE....!
HOW CAN SANCHE BE SOMEONE WHO HAS ABSOLUTELY NO PASSION FOR COOKING...!?

.....
...!!
IT'LL BE A RELIEF TO HAVE HIM FINALLY GONE!
RIGHT
YEAH YEAH

BESIDES, HE NEVER TRIED TO IMPROVE HIS COOKING SKILLS!
CHAT-TER
CHAT-TER
IT'S ABOUT TIME THAT HE LEAVES!
HUH
CHAT-TER

...
!!
SFX GUGU-

SFX SAN
YOU...YOU REALLY DON'T MIND SANCHE!?

SAN CHE ...!
DA... DAMN
I... I CAN'T JUST STAND HERE AND DO NOTHING ....
PLEASE... PLEASE WAIT A MINUTE! MASTER CHOYU!
PLEASE GIVE HIM ONE MORE CHANCE!
BEFORE TOMORROW, YOU SHALL HAVE A DISH OF SHREDDED PORK AND GREEN PEPPERS PREPARED BY SANCHE AND ME!
!!
YOU...
WHAT ...?

菊下楼
為了畫美食漫畫，吃來吃就成了我最大的研究工作。
今天來吃各種不同的中國菜，然後再做一比較！
平常都只吃湯麵…
～菜單～
宮保明蝦…¥1300
叉燒肉…¥2200
…¥290
…¥350
……
嗯……
湯麵一碗！
好的！
不！你們不要誤會！
滋滋～
滋滋滋～
我今天真的是來做研究的！來研究湯麵的吃法…
中國菜讚！
～之1～
待續

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# CHAPTER 5: SANCHE-SAN'S SECRET

**SHREDDED PORK WITH GREEN PEPPER**

CHINESE DISH IN WHICH SLICES OF MEAT, GREEN PEPPER, AND BAMBOO SHOOTS ARE STIR-FRIED. BRINGING OUT THE CRISPNESS OF THE VEGETABLES AND THE TENDERNESS OF THE MEAT, IS THE BASIS OF THIS DISH. IT IS THE MODEL OF CANTONESE CUISINE

AND THE TENDERNESS OF THE MEAT
THE BASIS OF SHREDDED PORK WITH GREEN PEPPERS
IS THE CRISPNESS OF THE VEGETABLES
AND THE SEASONING... SEEMS NORMAL...
E...?
FRESHNESS OF THE INGREDIENTS IS THE PRIDE OF YOUSEN SHUKA THAT COULDN'T BE THE PROBLEM...
FAILS TO MAINTAIN THIS...
SURE ENOUGH SANCHE-SAN'S
WHAT ARE YOU DOING MAO!?
?!
!!

TH— THEY'RE...
POORLY SLICED...!!
IF YOU ADD SUCH BIG PIECES, THEY WON'T COOK EVENLY
EVEN THE THICKEST PIECES WILL WITHER
SORRY BUT
I ALREADY REALIZED THAT MYSELF
EH ?
OH
THAT'S RIGHT
CUT ALL THE BAMBOO SHOOTS INTO THIN SLICES!

!
SANCHE-SAN!!
HE'S ALWAYS MADE ME DO THE SLICING...
!
PLEASE TRY TO CUT SOMETHING!!
I'VE NEVER SEEN SANCHE-SAN CUT ANYTHING...!!
I KNOW THAT
I KNOW...
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, WITH NOBODY WATCHING, YOU WERE PAN FLIPPING
WITH AN UNMATCHED PASSION FOR CUISINE
YOU SHOULD ALREADY KNOW
THAT'S WHY CHOYU-SAN TURNED HIS BACK ON ME
I'M THE LAZIEST PERSON IN YOUSEN
YOU MUST BE JOKING
MAO

MOVE.
SANCHE-SAN!

!?
MEI... MEI LING
AT LEAST HAVE SOMETHING TO EAT

MAO IS LOOKING FOR YOU
SO WHAT
PLEASE BE HONEST
I KNOW IT IS MAO'S FAULT YOU HAVE TO LEAVE BUT...
THATS... NOT THE PROBLEM..
AH!
SANCHE SAN!
!?
SO YOU ARE HIDING OUT HERE
I SEARCHED ALL OVER TOWN
MAO...

THERE'S A HUGE SHOP CALLED 'RYUUCHIN SHUKA'
IN SHANGHAI
THESE ARE GOOD!! PLEASE TRY ONE!!
DAD WAS WELL RESPECTED
YOU WERE ALSO BROUGHT UP WITH YOUR PARENT'S KITCHEN AS A PLAYGROUND
MAO... YOU ARE FROM SZECHUAN'S KIKKARO
I WANTED TO MAKE THE NAME RYUUCHIN SHUKA ECHO THROUGHOUT CHINA
AND WHEN I WATCHED HIM, I YEARNED TO BE JUST LIKE HIM
AH!
BUT ONE DAY...
AND I'VE STUDIED SINCE I WAS LITTLE

DRIP
DRIP
UU...
AH!!!
YE ARGH!
HO... HONEY!! SANCHE!! SANCHE'S HAND!!
SAN-CHE!!
THE TERROR I FELT THAT DAY IS REVIVED
THE KNIFE WAS SHARP ENOUGH THAT IT CUT RIGHT TO THE BONE
WHEN I REMEMBER THAT, I PANIC, AND CAN'T EVEN HOLD A KNIFE
THE BLOOD THAT POURED OUT, AND THE INTENSE PAIN
WHEN I LOOK AT THIS SCAR

REALLY HAVE A FUTURE AS A CHEF...?
CAN A PERSON WHO CAN'T HOLD A KNIFE...
IS THAT I'M CLINGING DESPE-RATELY TO MY DREAM
THE FEELING I HAVE AT NIGHT
IT'S PITIFUL, AND IRRITATING...
THIS IS A GOOD SHOP...
MAO...
BUT IT EVENTUALLY ENDED...
WORKING AT YOUSEN WAS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY
BECOME A GREAT CHEF IN MY PLACE
GOOD LUCK

SANCHE-SAN
LET'S MAKE SHREDDED PORK WITH GREEN PEPPER TOGETHER!!
MAO...
LET'S MAKE THE MOST DELICIOUS THING EVER
GOOD ENOUGH TO SHOCK CHOYU-SENSEI
CUT IT OUT
I CAN'T EVEN HOLD A KNIFE

BUT THAT WOULDN'T BE MY OWN COOKING
THAT'S WHY WE'RE DOING IT TOGETHER
I'LL DO THE CUTTING
SANCHE-SAN CAN DO THE COOKING
AFTER COMING THIS FAR YOU'RE STILL SAYING THAT!?
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO PRACTICE EVERY NIGHT, YET YOU DID
USE THOSE FEELINGS!!
AS LONG AS THE FINISHED PRODUCT IS GOOD
.....
LET'S GO BACK... TO THE KITCHEN...
DAD WILL UNDER-STAND

IN THE END THEY SHOULD ALL BE EQUALLY THICK
THE GREEN PEPPER SHOULD BE BIGGER THAN THE ONES SANCHE-SAN MADE
SHOULD BE CUT SO THAT THEY LOOK LIKE EQUAL SIZED SQUARES FROM THE SIDE
THE BAM-BOO SHOOTS ...
ADD IT TO THE SEASONING, AND THE PREPAR-ATION IS COMPLETE
FINALLY
IF YOU DO THAT, IT WILL DEFINITELY TURN OUT TO BE DELICIOUS!!
THE MEAT, THE BAMBOO SHOOTS, THE GREEN PEPPER. CUTTING THEM ALL TO THE SAME THICKNESS IS THE BASIS OF THIS DISH

<SFX: STIRRING>

* ROOSULI MEANS THE SLICED MEAT

JUST AS I EXPECTED FROM SANCHE-SAN!!
RE... REALLY?
AH, IT'S ABOUT TO HARDEN..!!
DON'T USE CHOP-STICKS
RIGHT AWAY!!
LETS ADD THE GREEN PEPPER ON TOP
ALRIGHT MAO!!
BACK INTO THE PAN!!
ジュオオオ
AND THEN...
WHILE I'M DRAINING IT, ADD THE GREEN PEPPER
ジャーー
I'M STRAINING THE OIL, MAO!
ALRIGHT, EVERYTHING IS IN PLACE!!
HAI!

ADD THE SEASONING MIXTURE OF SOUP, SUGAR, SOY SAUCE, POTATO STARCH, ETC.
ジュオオ
STIR IT NIMBLY
ニッヤッヤッ
LET THE FLAVOUR MIX

IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN HIM MAKE A FACE LIKE THAT
SANCHE LOOKS LIKE HE'S HAVING FUN...!!
OK MAO, A PLATE!
HAI!
MAO...
GIGGLE

DONE!!
FINISHED!!
好ﾋﾞﾂ
EVEN THOUGH THE INGREDIENTS ARE THE SAME, THE CUTTING CHANGED THE FLAVOUR SO MUCH!
IT'S TRUE!!
DE... DELICIOUS!! IT'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM BEFORE!!
モグモグモグ
DAD WILL DEFINITELY ACCEPT THIS
ぱくっ
AND SANCHE, YOUR COOKING HELPED ALOT TOO
THE VEGETABLES ARE PERFECTLY EVENLY COOKED!!

モグ
モグ
モグ
モグ
パク!!
MY TURN...
.....
カチャ...
I...
OVER-LOOKED SOMETHING IMPOR-TANT...
THIS SHREDDED PORK WITH GREEN PEPPER...
IS A FAILURE!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN MAO!!
EH!? FAILURE!?
THIS SHREDDED PORK WITH GREEN PEPPER HAS A FATAL FLAW!!
THERE'S NO WAY CHOYU-SAN WILL ACCEPT THIS!!

VOLUME ONE: END

講談社コミックス　二二三八巻

中華一番！①

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少年マガジン・コミックス KC MAGAZINE

# 中華一番!

1〜5 以下「真・中華一番!」に つづくぞ!!

小川悦司

天下一品! マオのおいしい冒険!

友だちについ
自慢したくなる

講談社

●熱血コミック&アニメ

# 中華一番！

公式ガイドブック

# だれも知らない
# おもしろ大百科！

## 知っててよかった!!

「少年マガジン」好評連載!!
「アニメ」フジテレビ放映中!!

コミック&アニメの
**「ここだけの話」がいっぱい!!**

6月4日
発売!!

原作者の㊙ばなし、アニメキャラクター早分かりから中華料理おもしろこぼれ話、びっくり!!広州清平市場を写真で紹介まで、超もりだくさんな「中華一番！」

監修●小川悦司&週刊少年マガジン編集部　責任編集●公式ガイドブック制作スタッフ

# 少年マガジン・コミックス

大好評
発売中!!

## 好評続刊シリーズ

**はじめの一歩** ①〜㊲ 以下続刊 森川ジョージ
ひたむき少年、幕之内一歩の感動ボクシング巨編!!

**シュート!** ①〜㉝ 以下〜蒼きめぐり逢い〜に続刊 大島 司
俊彦と一美が織りなす、ハララソ青春サッカー物語。

**シュート!〜蒼きめぐり逢い〜** ①〜② 以下続刊 大島 司
トシ、和広、健二の掛西中ゴールデントリオ誕生秘話!!

**カメレオン** ①〜㉝ 以下続刊 加瀬あつし
チビで弱いが、口の巧さは天下一! 俺が矢沢栄作だ!!

**将太の寿司** ①〜㉖ 以下続刊 寺沢大介
めざすは日本一の寿司職人! 新米・将太ただいま修業中!!

**疾風伝説 特攻の拓** ①〜㉕ 以下続刊 原作/佐木飛朗斗 漫画/所十三
"いじめられっ子"拓の、ツノバリ成り上がり伝説!!

**金田一少年の事件簿** ①〜㉙ 以下続刊 原案/天樹征丸 原作/金成陽三郎 漫画/さとうふみや
あの金田一耕助の孫が殺人事件の謎に挑む本格推理漫画!

**もっとGOODキッス** ①〜⑲ 以下続刊 河方かおる
読者の手記をもとに描く、さわやかファーストキッス物語!

**風使い** ①〜⑮ 以下続刊 鷹氏隆之
聖なる風を操り、魔を封印する「風使い」永遠の月流魔!!

**Harlem Beat** ①〜⑬ 以下続刊 西山優里子
バスケやるならストリートだ! 成瀬徹、ただ今バスケに夢中!!

**新・コータローまかりとおる!** ①〜⑪ 以下続刊 蛭田達也
コータローがまたもなにかを!? 格闘技で熱血パワー炸裂!

**MMR** マガジンミステリー調査班 ①〜⑨ 以下続刊 石垣ゆうき
超常現象の神秘に、マガジンミステリー調査班が迫る!!

**AIが止まらない!** ①〜⑧ 以下続刊 赤松 健
パソコン少年ひとしと人工知能サーティ。毎日が愛の学習!?

★品切れの時は、本屋さんに注文してください。

# 少年マガジン・コミックス

大好評
発売中!!

## 好評続刊シリーズ

### イクミの秘密
①～⑥ 以下続刊 原作 徳田春生 漫画 岡田鯛
こくフツーの少年、イクミに起こる数々の不思議な出来事!?

### JUNの戦場
①～⑥ 以下続刊 原作 藤林秀 漫画 大黒隆
LAはオレの戦場だ! 日系二世の少年ジュンの戦闘活劇!!

### Jドリーム飛翔編
①～⑥ 以下続刊 堺内夏子
若き力が世界に挑む! 〝魔〟が繰り広げる日本ユース編!!

### サイコメトラーEIJI
①～⑤ 以下続刊 原作 安童夕馬 漫画 朝基まさし
物や人の〝記憶〟を読みとる力で、映児が怪事件に挑む!?

### LET'Sぬぷぬぷっ
①～⑤ 以下続刊 三ツ森あきら
脳天ぶっちぎり!「ぬぷぬぷっ」の笑いの渦が大爆発だぁ。

### OFFICE麗
①～⑤ 以下続刊 野々村秀樹 原作 宮場さなえ
祐太と同居人、謎のセクシー三姉妹が心霊現象に挑戦する!!

### TENKAFUBU信長
①～④ 以下続刊 ながてゆか
望むは天下布武! 信長を新感覚で描く戦国ロマン!!

### 疾風伝説彦佐 疾風の七星剣
①～③ 以下続刊 山本晃
七星剣の煌めきに秘められた彦佐の宿命! 疾風彦佐 新章収録!

### DESPERADO
①～③ 以下続刊 松本大治
音楽が好きだ!! ギター少年・椎名の青春音楽物語!!

### Dreams
①～③ 以下続刊 原作 七三太朗 漫画 川三番地
性格は悪いが野球は凄い! 久里武志の補欠野球ストーリー!!

### 釣りに行こうよ!
①～③ 以下続刊 森一生
超大物を狙え! 飛浪と神流の本格バス釣りストーリー!!

### 蒼き神話マルス
①～② 以下続刊 本島幸久
蒼き瞳を宿す、最強のサラブレッド降誕。その名はマルス!!

### 純平! 美女ON!!
①～② 以下続刊 カジワラタケシ
美女達が毎回、ボヨヨ～～～ンと! ちょっとHなイイ話♡

★品切れの時は、本屋さんに注文してください。

# 少年マガジン・コミックス

大好評
発売中!!

## 好評続刊シリーズ

**BOYS BE…** 2nd Season 以下続刊 ①〜② 作／イタバシマサヒロ 画／玉越博幸
恋も進化する!? 人気ラブストーリー、話題の新バージョン!!

**DOCTOR K** 以下続刊 ①〜② 真船一雄
Kをめぐり全てが動きだす。本格医学漫画パワーアップ!!

**脳みそプルン！** 以下続刊 ①〜 川口憲吾
はじけるアドレナリン！ やめられない、とれたてGAG!!

**GTO** 以下続刊 ①〜 藤沢とおる
目指すはグレートな男!! 湘南育ち、鬼塚の世紀末教師伝説!?

**真・中華一番！** 以下続刊 ①〜 小川悦司
料理人として大きく成長したマオの、さらなる味バトル!!

## 絶賛完結シリーズ

**コータローまかりとおる！** 全59巻 蛭田達也
世の中平和じゃおもろない。騒動師コータロー痛快大あばれ。

**スーパードクターK** 全44巻 真船一雄
神業のメスをふるう男、その名はK！ ボイルド医学伝説。

**BOYS BE…** 全32巻 作／イタバシマサヒロ 画／玉越博幸
恋愛未満少年に贈る、読み切り新感覚ラブストーリー!!

**湘南純愛組！** 全31巻 藤沢とおる
鬼爆コンビが大活躍!! ①〜②巻はB6サイズで発売中!!

**マラソンマン** 全19巻 井上正治
不屈の闘志で甦れ！ 一馬と勝馬父子の感動42・195km物語。

**Dr.NOGUCHI** 全17巻 むつ利之
日本の偉人、野口英世の真の人間像にせまる感動巨編!!

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